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TRANSLATION

OF

The Peking Gazette

FOR

1876.

REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD."
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UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

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SHANGHAI:

REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD AND SUPREME COURT AND
CONSULAR GAZETTE."

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PREFACE.

SEVERAL documents of more than usual interest have been published in the *Peking Gazette* during 1876; notably the memorials and edicts relating to the settlement of the Yünnan outrage, the death of Wên-seang, and the financial embarrassment of several districts of the Empire. The famine in the North has also inspired a few utterances, very incommensurate however with its gravity; and some curious references are made to those perpetual sources of trouble, the Grand Canal and the Yellow River, in connexion with the carriage of the Grain Tribute. The commencement of the Young Emperor's studies is the only important statement that has been made public regarding his personal welfare; and little more has been said regarding the Empresses regent or their Court. The occasional references made to foreigners and foreign affairs are a noteworthy departure from the pre-established custom of ignoring their presence and existence in the country; and the arrivals of tribute-bearing missions from some of the neighbouring states have given rise to some quaintly characteristic effusions. Altogether the present volume sustains the interest of the series, and those interested in the customs and literature of China will find much to amuse and instruct, in its pages.

SHANGHAI, 1877.

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PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1876.

*** For purposes of classification, with a view to ready reference, the content of the *Peking Gazette*, as translated in this volume, have been indexed under six principal headings, viz:—Court Affairs, Judicial and Revenue Administration, Civil and Military Administration, Instruction, Worship, and Usages, External Relations, and the Provinces. Under each of these main divisions, the subjects are still further arranged in appropriate categories.

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Drilled force at Newchwang	March 6.
Do. do. in Chinese city, Peking	March 10.
Brigadier-General of T'êng-yüeh	March 3, April 30, May 8,
Do. do. for Sze-ch'wan	April 29. [July 19.
Do. do. of Kiukiang	May 9.
Fort at Chefoo	May 13.
Generals-in-chief of Sze-ch'wan and Yünnan	May 15.
New military organization for Amur province	May 16.
Yangtze naval forces inspected	May 28.
Brigadier-general in Shensi cashiered	June 7.
Troops at Lan-chow inspected	June 10.
Command of gunboats in Kwangtung	June 13.
Manchu soldiers removed to Hangchow	July 5.
Month's pay to Peking garrison	August 1.
Fortifications and artillery at Huk'ow	Sept. 15.
Commander-in-chief on Yangtze	Sept. 16.
Peking Field Force—officers sent to Kalgan	Sept. 29.
Foreign drill at Kalgan	Sept. 29.
Manchu soldiery at Canton—allowances	Sept. 30.
Gunpowder required in Amur province	Oct. 2, Nov. 18.
Fortifications of Tsitsihar	Oct. 2.
Garrison of Urga reduced	Oct. 23.
Forts and foreign drill at Peh-t'ang	Nov. 7.
Cavalry barracks and arms at Hing-king	Nov. 12.
Reorganization of army in Yünnan	Nov. 13.
Pay of Manchu troops at Nanking	Nov. 14.
Brigadier-General of Hai-t'an	Nov. 18.
Cruises on coast of Kwangtung	Nov. 22.
Voluntary retirement of Colonel in Kwangsi	Nov. 22.
Command at Ning-kwoh Fu	Nov. 26.
Military officers in Kwangtung denounced	Nov. 27, 28.
Horses for cavalry in Amur province	Dec. 5.
Stud reserve near Si-an Fu	Dec. 9.
Manchu General at King-chow Fu	Dec. 10.
Drill, &c., of Manchu troops at King-chow Fu	Dec. 10.
Manchu lieut.-general at Canton	Dec. 11.
Fortifications at Peh-t'ang	Dec. 15.
Garrison for port of Ta-ku Shan	Dec. 17.

PRISON AFFAIRS.

Escape of one prisoner in Chihli	June 24.
Do. two do. Kiangsu	Sept. 29.
Do. one do. Kwangsi	Dec. 14.
Do. of Imperial clansman in Hehlung Kiang.....	Dec. 9.
Amendment in condition of prisoners in Kweichow	April 6.
Recapture of prisoner in Kirin	Dec. 4.
Ex-Military Governor released from penal servitude	Sept. 29, Oct. 22.

IV.—INSTRUCTION, WORSHIP, AND USAGES.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Return of Literary Examiners from Sze-ch'wan	Jan. 14.
Irregularities at prov. examinations	Jan. 15.
Octegenarian and nonagenarian candidates	Feb. 12, 27.
Do. do. do. do.	Feb. 28, 29.
Do. do. do. do.	March 11, 14, 26.
Do. do. do. do.	May 3.
Additional degrees in Kansuh	Feb. 29, March 18.
Disorderly conduct of students in Chohkiang	March 10.
Do. do. do. Kiangsi	Sept. 17.
Candidates for <i>tsin-sze</i> examinations	March 17.
Do. do. do.	March 19.
Do. do. do.	March 20.
Special examinations, Censor's memorial	March 30.
Literary Examiners appointed.....	March 31.
Themes for second stage of examinations	April 7.
List of successful candidates	April 20.
Colleges rebuilt at Yünnan Fu	May 8.
Graduates' travelling expenses in Yünnan	May 8.
Palace Examinations of 1876	May 11, 13.
Do. do., Highest honours	May 17.
Abuses at examinations in Sze-ch'wan	May 19, June 4.
New <i>tsin-sze</i> graduates—appointments	June 3.
Manchu examinations	June 6.
Unlawful alterations in an essay.....	June 29.
Literary Examiners appointed.....	July 3.
Frauds on part of candidates for Examinerships.....	Sept. 11.
Fraudulent substitutes at Examinations	Sept. 13.
Traffic in scholarships	Sept. 17.
Provincial Literary Chancellors appointed	Sept. 18.
<i>Kü-jén</i> graduates at Peking	Nov. 5.
Additional degrees in Sze-ch'wan	Nov. 5.
Two colleges in Kansuh, foundation for	Nov. 15.
Degree fraudulently obtained in Hunan	Dec. 31.

WORSHIP.

Prayers for snow.....	Jan. 5, 14.
Do. do.	Feb. 3, 15.
Do. rain	Feb. 24, Mar. 5, 15, 27.
Do. do.	April 5, 15, 25.

Prayers for rain	May 5, 20, 31.
Do. do.	June 11, July 6.
Incense offerings to Tai Shan mountain.....	May 13.
Iron Tablet brought to Peking	May 13.
Do. returned	Aug. 7.
Inventor of writing—proposed deification	Aug. 23.
Proposed sacrificial honours for Liu Têh	Sept. 10.
Deified guardian of Yellow River	Nov. 17.

TEMPLES.

Memorial boards for Temples in Shansi	Jan. 6.
Temple of Kwan Yin in Chêhkiang	Feb. 19.
Do. Yü the Great in do.	June 1.
Do. River God, tablet awarded	June 20.
Memorial board for Yellow River Gods.....	Nov. 5.
Do. do. Temple at Tsitsihar	Nov. 22.
Peh Lung T'an Temple in Chihli	Dec. 6.

VIRTUOUS AND DISTINGUISHED FEMALES.

Wifely devotion and self-mutilation	Jan. 17.
Devotion of bereaved bride	Aug. 30.
Wifely devotion in Kiangsi	Sept. 19.
Honours to mother of Yung Luh	Feb. 3, 23.
Imperial tablet to mother of a Brigadier-General	Feb. 19.
Centenarian lady in Sze-ch'wan	June 2.

SUPERSTITION.

Wind on New-Year's Day.....	Jan. 25.
Magic arts among Turguts	Aug. 15.
"Paper-men" and "tail-cutting"	Oct. 15.
Do. do.	Nov. 9.
Miraculous defence of city in Sze-ch'wan.....	Nov. 11, 25.

METEOROLOGY.

Rainfall at Peking	July 3, 9.
Snow at Peking	Dec. 16.
Drought and Floods—see <i>Public Service</i> .	

V.—EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

Yünnan enquiry—Memorial and Decree	Jan. 23, Feb. 15.
Do. do. High Commissioner's seal.....	Ap. 3, July 13.
Electric telegraph at Foochow	March 4.
Foreign affairs at Nan-yang Fu	March 17.
Do. do. in Kwangtung	March 25.
German schooner <i>Anna</i> —murderers punished	March 21.
Tidewater Blacklock—execution of murder.....	June 26.
Russian trade at Kiachta—Chihkiang's visit	Aug. 12.
Do. supplies for campaign in North-west	Aug. 28.
Coast defence at Foochow.....	Aug. 20.
Foreign trade at Newchwang	Sept. 13.

Yünnan affair—Decree upon.....	Sept. 17.
Do. frontier trade, upon.....	Sept. 17.
Do. affair—Li Hung-chang's Memorial	Sept. 28.
Do. frontier trade, do. do.	Sept. 29.
Foreign trade at K'iungchow	Sept. 28.
Russian proximity on the Amur	Oct. 2.
Peruvian Treaty and emigration	Oct. 18.
French missionary in Chehkiang.....	Oct. 6.
Missionary establishment in do.	Oct. 15.
Anti-missionary outbreaks in Sze-ch'wan	Oct. 28.
Foreign affairs reported tranquil.....	Dec. 8.
Do. do. at Tientsin.....	Dec. 19, 20.

TSUNG-LI YAMEN AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Yamên of For. Affairs—rewards to secretaries	May 10.
Do. do. foreign questions dealt with.....	May 15.
Do. do. Li Hung-tsao and King-lien admitted	Dec. 11.
Kwoh Sung-tao, Envoy to Great Britain, applications to retire	Ap. 15, 25, May 24.
Do. permitted to resign his Vice-Presidentship	Aug. 23, Sept. 3.
Do. appointed acting Vice-President of a Board	Sept. 19.
Ch'ên Lan-pin, envoy to Spain, &c., office conferred	Sept. 29.
Liu Si-hung, junior envoy to Great Britain, office conferred	Oct. 4.

COREA, LIU-CH'IU, AND ANAM.

Liu-ch'iuans, shipwrecked, relief at Foochow	Jan. 5.
Do. do. do.	Feb. 17.
Do. do. at Cha-pu	Oct. 17.
Do. do. relief at Foochow	Oct. 19.
Corea—Envoys returned from	March 30.
Do. homicide and extradition case	Oct. 8.
Anam—frontier defence.....	Oct. 9.
Do. advent of tribute mission	Nov. 27.
Do. Memorial from King	Nov. 27.

BURMAH, TIBET, NEPAL, AND ABORIGINES.

Burmese mission passed out of Chihli	Jan. 1.
Do. do. do.	Jan. 15.
Do. do. do. Hunan	April 25.
Tibet—Hi-k'ai, arrival of	Jan. 5.
Do. Delinquent official removed	Jan. 5.
Do. Military inspection	Jan. 12.
Do. Minister of State appointed	Feb. 2.
Do. Counsellor appointed	April 2.
Do. Arrears of allowance to late President.....	May 2.
Do. Retirement of Hi-k'ai	May 5.
Do. Kwei-fêng had audience of leave	July 29.
Nepal—Tribute mission to arrive from	May 20.
Yünnan—Rising among mountaineers	May 7.
Kwangsi—Miaotsze rising suppressed	May 28.
Do. New district (aborigines)	May 2.

SUNGARIA (ILI) AND KASHGARIA.

Recapture of Uliasutai after 1869	Jan. 5.
Camel train for army of N. W.,—losses	March 15.
Funds (Tls. 40,000) supplied from Fuhkien	April 19.
Do. do. Szech'wan	Dec. 29.
Kurkara Usu, military services at	May 18.
Ili command, appointments in.....	June 6.
Kobdo, Resident at.....	June 27.
Hami, do.	July 15.
Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General, leaves for front	July 11.
Uliasutai, provisions sent from Kalgan	July 11.
Yung-ts'üan, prays to be removed	July 15.
Do recalled.....	Dec. 13.
Dungani inroad near Bolun Toghoi.....	Aug. 4.
Manas, victorious engagement at	Sep. 27.
Russian supplies received.....	Sept. 27.
Urumtsi, attacked and captured.....	Sept. 21, Oct. 3.
Tents at Kobdo, cost of, ...	Nov. 26.
Kin Shun, appointed Military Governor of Ili	Dec. 13.
Ying Han, appointed Lieut.-General of Urumtsi	Dec. 13.

ARSENALS AND STEAM VESSELS.

Rice carried by China Merchants' Company's steamers...	March 22.
Duties levied on do. do. do. do. ...	Oct. 18.
Lives lost by sinking of steamer (the <i>Glengyle</i>)	April 1.
Gunboats on coast of Kwangtung	June 13.
Gunboat despatched with memorial	May 21.
Fire in military stores at Tientsin	June 9.
Director of Foochow Arsenal takes office.....	June 19.

VI.—MANCHURIA, MONGOLIA, AND PROVINCES.

MANCHURIA.

Shêng-king—Change in form of government	Jan. 19.
Do. do. do. do.	Feb. 18.
Do. Governor-General's seal of office.....	June 20.
Do. Regulations for administration	July 21.
Do. Postponement of Winter Hunt besought ...	Sept. 3.
Do. Illness and death of Ts'ung-shih	Dec. 8, 11.
Kirin—Winter hunt	Jan. 19.
Do. Report on civil service	April 22.
Do. Military Governor censured	April 23.
Do. do. Ku-ni-yin-pu appointed	May 12.
Do. Squatters on Government lands	Oct. 28.
Heh-lung Kiang province, military organization.....	May 16, 31.
Do. do. pay of soldiery	May 16, 31.
Do. do. fortifications of Tsitsihar.....	Oct. 2.
Do. do. banished officials pardoned ...	Oct. 13.
Do. do. Hu-lan T'ing recaptured	Oct. 13.
Do. do. state of harvests	Dec. 19.
Do. do. enrolment of militia	Dec. 26.

Jeh-ho—Forest fires	June 11.
Do. Survey of Hunting Grounds	Oct. 25.
Do. Reforms proposed for Hunting Grounds	Nov. 14, Dec. 3.
Do. Lands confiscated in do.	Dec. 7.

MONGOLIA.

Resident at Urga visits Kiachta	July 29.
Garrison at Urga reduced.....	Oct. 23.
Durbar of Mongol nobles in Kokonor	Nov. 6.
Payments renounced by Mongol nobles at Urga	Dec. 5.

[See also *Sungaria*.]

THE PROVINCES.

Chihli—Suffering from drought. Relief measures	June 30.
Shantung—Relief measures adopted	Nov. 24.
Do. Governor Ting Pao-chêng to come to Peking	Nov. 22, Dec. 5.
Kiangsu—Affairs at Ning-kwoh Fu	Nov. 26.
Do. Proposed new Intendancies	Nov. 27.
Do. Relief of distress in Kiangpeh	Dec. 13.
Chehkiang—Governor resumes duty	Nov. 9.
Do. Necromancers and “paper-men”.....	Nov. 9.
Kiangsi—Revenue and official salaries	Dec. 9.
Fuhkien—Establishment of electric telegraph	March 4.
Do. Corruption and laxity of officials.....	April 13.
Do. Case of German schooner <i>Anna</i>	May 21.
Do. Military officers cashiered and executed.....	June 9.
Do. Blacklock murder	June 26.
Do. Disasters from floods	July 1.
Do. Embezzlements by officials	Oct. 14.
Do. Official corruption	Oct. 27.
Do. Ting Jih-ch’ang asks leave to retire.....	Dec. 16.
Do. Floods, and relief measures	Dec. 19.
Do. do. contributions for relief.....	Dec. 19.
Formosa—New districts organised	Jan. 17.
Do. Official villany and murder (Taotai Li)	March 30.
Do. Officials denounced	June 17.
Do. Misconduct of Magistrate of Kia I	Oct. 19, Nov. 4.
Do. Brigandage suppressed	Dec. 14.
Do. Corrupt state of administration	Nov. Dec. 16.
Hupei—Salt consumption area	June 9.
Anhwei—New sub-prefecture created	Oct. 21.
Kwangtung—Military officers denounced.....	Nov. 27, 28, 29.
Sze-ch’wan—Brig.-General T’ien Tsai-t’ien arrives.....	Aug. 11.
Do. Anti-missionary disturbances	Oct. 28.
Do. Supplies of Insect-wax to Peking	Dec. 15.
Do. Tung-hiang outrages. Enquiry ordered.....	Sept. 3.
Do. do. do.	Oct. 5, 16, 20.
Do. do. do. Censor Kw’ei-kwang	Sept. 14.
Do. do. do. Governor’s report ...	Oct. 5, 16.
Do. do. do. Board of Punish- ment’s memorial...	Oct. 21, 29.
Do. do. do. Revelations.....	Oct. 29, 30.
Do. do. do. do.	Dec. 26.

Yünnan—Acting Brigadier-General of T'êng-yüeh	Jan. 10.
Do. Liu Ch'ang-yeo to proceed direct	Jan. 23.
Do. Arrears of subsidies due	March 1.
Do. Brigadier-General of Lin-yüan	March 3.
Do. do. T'êng-yüeh	March 3.
Do. Liu Ch'ang-yeo sets out from Kwangsi	March 23.
Do. Brig.-General of T'êng-yüeh, &c.	April 30.
Do. do. do. do.	May 8.
Do. Rising among mountaineers	May 7.
Do. Colleges rebuilt by Governor.....	May 8.
Do. Liu Ch'ang-yeo takes office	June 22.
Do. Acting Governor takes charge	Aug. 20.
Do. Ts'ên Yü-ying hands over seal	Sept. 16.
Do. General Yang Yü-k'o to remain	July 23.
Do. Do. do. rewarded	Sept. 12.
Do. Brig-General of K'ai-hwa	Oct. 18.
Do. Copper forwarded	Feb. 28, Aug. 9, 19.
Do. Taotai Ch'ên T'ing-chên	Dec. 11.
Do. General Hu Chung-ho proceeds.....	Aug. 10.
Do. Margary Murder, &c., and frontier trade	Sept. 17, 28, 29.
Do. Recapture of T'êng-yüeh from insurgents	Sept. 12, 21.
Do. Prefect of Yünnan Fu.....	Nov. 30.
Kweichow—Amelioration in condition of prisoners	April 6.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

1876.

Jan. 1st.—(1) A decree confirming a long list of military appointments in different grades, after presentation of the candidates before the Commissioners (驗放大臣) appointed for this purpose for the present moon. (N.B.—This is the first time a list of this kind has been published in the *Gazette*. It is stated that the innovation, together with that of printing abstracts of memorials not issued for publication in full, which was noticed within the last week or two, is due to representations from the provinces, urging more extended publicity.)

(2) A decree dealing with the cases of sundry civil officials who have been impeached by Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor of Kwangsi. An expectant Prefect, who is reported as false in disposition and as failing to rule his subordinates properly, is dismissed the public service for ever. Three district magistrates are compulsorily retired, and two other functionaries are removed from their present offices.

(3, 4, and 5) Memorials from the Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Grand Council, forwarding recommendations of the Secretaries and Clerks of the Council, for stated services.

Jan. 2nd.—(1) Among the abstracts of memorials noted, is one from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reporting the date of passage of the Burmese tribute mission beyond the limits of his province. (N.B.—The tribute mission left Peking, on its return journey, about the 18th November.)

Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the conclusion of proceedings in the case of a District Magistrate formerly impeached for unauthorized appropriation of government funds. Chang Fuh-yung, as magistrate of the K'uh-yang district in 1858, drew from the treasury Tls. 468 to meet the expenses for trainbands which were then being formed; and in 1862, as magistrate of the Wu-yih district, at a time when invasion was threatened by the Nien-fei from Shantung, he appropriated the sum of Tls. 3,749 for the purposes of defence. Never having

been able to make good these amounts, he was impeached and dismissed, and his property was ordered to be sequestrated. He died in 1872, at his native place; where, on perquisition having been made by order of the Governor of Shansi, it is found that the value of his personal property is one tael, four mace, seven candareens. The clerks who were attached to his yamêns at the periods referred to, having been arraigned, according to law, it has been proved that the misappropriations in question were made for the public service, and without fraudulent intent. Under these circumstances, the sentence to be passed according to law is that of transportation for four years; but the delinquent being dead, no further steps need be taken. Due report is made to the Boards of Revenue and Punishments.

(3) Li Hung-chang, in a postscript memorial, represents that fourteen military officers, beginning with a Brevet-General named Hiung Chao-chow 熊兆周, and two Brevet-Brigadier-Generals, named Chêng Kwoh-tsün 鄭國俊 and Li Ta-t'ing 李大霆, with others of lesser rank, down to that of sergeant, have been employed on the staff for the operations connected with coast-defence, in which they have displayed much endurance, and have studied the European system of artillery and the words of command, as well as actual gun-practice. He requests that they be allowed to remain in the province of Chihli, to be appointed to corresponding posts as vacancies may arise.—Granted by rescript.

Jan. 3rd.—(1) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Ts'ung-shih, acting Military Governor of Shêngking, recommending for promotion and honours the officers who distinguished themselves in the late successful campaigns against the refractory goldhunters and other rebels on the Eastern and Southern borders. A long catalogue of distinctions follows.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes denouncing Li En-han, acting

Magistrate of the Aü-tung district, for gross misconduct in connection with a judicial case. He allowed his police and underlings to tamper with evidence, and to apply torture to a woman to compel her to retract a statement she had previously made.—The delinquent has been dismissed from the public service by rescript.

Jan. 4th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Kung and Prince of Ch'un paid respects on their return from visiting the Eastern Mausolea.

(Abstracts of memorials.) Li K'ing-siang reports having taken over the seal of office as Governor of Honan.—Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chehkiang, forwards the returns of receipt from *lekin* and from sales of office and titles for the first half of the year.

(1) The Governor of Kiangsi memorializes reporting the selection, in obedience to Decree, of an official to fill the post of Prefect of Nan-ch'ang Fu. The person selected is Tsiang Ki-chu, lately Prefect of Kwang-sin Fu, a native of Shantung, aged 56, who took his *ku jên* decree in 1844, and graduated as *tsin-sze* in 1850. After receiving an appointment as Secretary (*chu-sze*) to one of the Boards, he was appointed in 1859 as one of the Secretaries to the Grand Council, and after sundry other appointments, he was named in 1865 as one of the clerks of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. In 1869, he was appointed by decree to his late post at Kwang-sin Fu.

Jan. 5th.—(Court Circular). The Prince of Kung returned thanks for the gift of a sable robe. Ch'êng beileh—son of the Prince of Kung—had audience.

(1) A decree referring to the continued absence of snow. On repeated occasions sacrifices have been offered at the various Imperial temples with prayers for this blessing, but it has not as yet been vouchsafed, and anxiety is expressed for the interests of husbandry. A solemn service is now ordered to be performed by the Taoist priests of the Kwang Ming Tien, in a sanctuary to be specially prepared in the Ta Kao Tien. The services to commence on the 8th instant, whilst on the same day a number of the Imperial princes are to offer incense and prayers at different temples.

(2) Abstracts of Memorials. Among these is a report from the Governor-General of Min-chên, of certain shipwrecked Liu-chiuans having been afforded relief at Foochow.

(3) Hi-k'ai 希凱, the acting Resident in Tibet, reports himself in bad health,

and asks sanction for two months' congé. Since his departure from Peking last year, he has suffered much from the changes of temperature on his journey, which have brought on affections of the head and lungs. Feeling himself robust in constitution, notwithstanding adverse medical opinions given after his arrival in Szech'wan, he proceeded on his journey by way of Ta-tsien Lu, and reached Lassa on the 21st July, 1874. The then President, Ch'êng-ki, having shortly afterwards died, he felt bound to sink all private considerations in efforts for the due discharge of the duty incumbent upon him; and in October he set out on a tour of inspection along the frontier of Ulterior Tibet. The hardships experienced on this journey, aggravated by a severe fall from his horse, have intensified his disease, whilst at the same time, the Resident appointed last year, Sung-kwei (see *Gazette* of October 13th, 1874), not having yet arrived at his post, the duties of his office, involving the control over the aborigines and barbarians who dwell intermingled together in Tibet, are felt as a burden to which he fears that his enfeebled frame may be unequal. He is compelled consequently to ask sanction for his taking a congé of two months for the purpose of seeking repose and medical treatment. During this period, in the same way as during his absence last year on his patrol of the frontier, ordinary business will be transacted by the Secretary of Tibetan (barbarian) Affairs 夷情章京, T'ieh-kw'ei.—Granted by rescript.

(4) In a postscript Memorial, Hi-k'ai reports the steps taken by him on receipt of a despatch from the Governor-General of Szech'wan, to the effect that an official of the Tibetan Council 商上番官 named Ku-king-ba was seeking to make mischief with the chieftain of one of the border tribes; and requesting that the propriety of his removal be taken into consideration. Hi-k'ai hereupon, gave strict orders to the Ministers (*Kablun*), who under his injunctions despatched a *tripêng* at the head of 150 Tibetan soldiers to instal a successor to the functionary in question, appointed by the Council, and to compel the delinquent to return to Lassa. On his arrival he will be punished according to the barbarian laws.

(5) Elêhopu and Tukarb, military Residents at Uliasutai, jointly memorialize, availing themselves of the permission granted by Decree to forward recommendations of the officials who have exerted themselves in the operations conducted in

the neighbourhood of Uliasutai. After the capture of that place in 1869, reinforcements were obtained at intervals from Ch'ahar, Kirin, and Tsitsihar, to whose unwearied exertions the recovery of Uliasutai and its preservation from further occasion of panic are due. A list of recommendations is appended.

Jan. 6th. (1)—A decree in reply to a Memorial by the Censor Yüan Ch'êng-yeh, who has solicited a prohibition of the abuses practised throughout the Empire in the treatment of prisoners and witnesses awaiting trial. Indefinite delays, he represents, are habitually indulged in, before individuals held in custody are brought before a Court, and they are exposed to extortionate practices and cruel maltreatment on the part of official underlings, frequently entailing their death through privation. Henceforward, let all Governors, on cases being removed to the provincial capital for trial, take steps to cause the proceedings to be promptly brought to a conclusion by the Judicial Commissioner; and let all district Magistrates who, in sending forward cases to the provincial capital, fail to have all the parties assembled within the period of one month, be impeached to the Throne. Local magistrates are likewise forbidden arbitrarily to cause arrests and imprisonment in cases of litigation, on such grounds as that the real parties to the cases have not been brought forward; and the higher authorities are commanded to exhort or punish their subordinates, as occasion may require, in order to secure a mild administration of justice and respect for the lives of the people at large.

(2) A decree awarding two Memorial Boards for temples in Shansi, on the application of the Governor, Pao Yüan-shên, who has represented two several instances of divine aid and protection afforded. The first was in 1867, when an incursion of the Nienfei was warded off; and the second in 1872, when rain was vouchsafed in time of drought, on prayers being offered up at the temples of Kwan Ti, the God of War and of a local divinity of the Lin-fên district, entitled the K'ang Tsêh Wang.

(3) A decree commanding the attendance of certain Mongol nobles, against whom a complaint has been lodged before the Colonial Office by members of their Banner.

Abstracts of Memorials.—Six from the Military Governor of Shêngking.

(4) The Governor-General of Szech'wan memorializes reporting the retirement from office, on account of family mourning, of the Taotai of the Kien-Ch'ang Intendancy,

and recommending for promotion to the vacancy the present Prefect of Ch'êng-tu Fu, Hû Pei-shên 許培身, a native of Hangchow, aged 54, who graduated as a *Kû-jên* in 1846, and who, having purchased the grade of Department Magistrate, was placed on the Szech'wan establishment in 1856, since when he has served in the province. If the advancement now recommended be sanctioned, he will be furnished with the proper credentials and sent to Peking for presentation.

Jan. 7th. (1) A decree referring to the great number of military officers, ranking as brevet Generals and Brigadier-Generals, who have been placed in these grades on the recommendation of various commanders-in-chief during the recent years of warfare, and among whom it cannot but be that there are some unworthy of the advancement they have contrived to obtain. An enquiry is now ordered, throughout all military and civil jurisdictions, into the actual qualifications and merits of officers thus distinguished. Those who are pronounced unworthy of the rank conferred upon them are to be reported to the Throne without the slightest approach to favouritism.

(2) The Censor Têng K'ing-lin again memorializes with reference to the Mongolian succession case in which he has previously denounced the flagitious partiality of the Colonial Office. The appellants, after waiting at Peking for close upon a twelvemonth, have been unable to obtain a hearing; and the Colonial Office has twisted the late Imperial Decree on the subject from its proper meaning, as a warrant for continuing to ignore the case. Instead of obeying the injunctions issued, and summoning the parties for a trial, all that the Colonial office has done has been to apprehend the scribe who drew up the complaint that was lodged in Chinese. This drawing up of complaints is, undoubtedly, an infraction of the law: but when it is remembered that the Court of Censorate has imperfect means of comprehending statements offered in Mongol, the offence may be considered a venial one. In view of the stubborn determination of the Colonial Office to deny justice in the case, the Censor once more urges that either a High Commissioner or else the Board of Punishments be commanded to take cognizance of the matter conjointly with the Colonial office.—By rescript dated Dec 24th, 1875, the Board of Punishments has been associated in the case with the Colonial Office.

(3) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung, memorializes acknowledging the

activity with which the funds, amounting to Tls. 1,500,000, required for the execution of the great Yellow River embankment works completed last year, were provided by the Treasurers of the provinces of Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi, and Hupeh ; and he solicits marks of Imperial approbation on their behalf.

Jan. 8th.—(1) The benignant Mandate of Their Majesties the Empresses Ts'ze An Twan Yü K'ang K'ing and Ts'ze An Twan Yü K'ang I, has been reverently received, as follows :—The Emperor having ascended the Throne whilst still of tender years, it is most needful that His studies be undertaken in due time, and be pursued with continual progress to the end, that the results of education in the course of right may be secured, and the foundations whence good government takes its rise be laid straight. Let the Imperial Board of Astronomers select a day of fortunate augury in the fourth moon of the coming year, on which His Majesty shall commence his course of studies in the Yü K'ing apartments of the Palace. Let the Vice-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat and acting Vice-President Wêng T'ung-ho and the Vice-President Hia T'ung-shan act as preceptors to His Majesty. Let them, on each morning and evening, address him with suitable admonitions, and devote themselves with thorough attention to the inculcation of learning, in order to prepare the way to fruitful results. Let the Prince of Ch'un superintend all that is needful in respect of the allotment of His Majesty's studies and arrangements in his apartments. The spoken language of the Imperial House and the literature of the Manchu tongue being fundamental institutions of Our Dynasty, His Majesty must pursue the study of these, and must likewise be practised in the spoken and written language of the Mongols, in horsemanship, archery, and the like accomplishments. Let the Ministers of the Presence in due time give the necessary instruction; and let the Prince of Ch'un in like manner superintend the needful arrangements. [Note. The Prince of Ch'un, as is well known, is the young Emperor's father. Wêng T'ung-ho, the principal preceptor now appointed, is a literary mandarin of eminence, and now succeeds to the office which was held by his father in respect of the Emperor Hien Fêng. Hia T'ung-shan is one of the junior Vice-Presidents of the Board of War. The next appointment to be made (though not gazetted) will probably be that of the child who, according to the Manchu Imperial custom, shares his Majesty's studies under the name of

'ha'hachutsze, in the capacity of a *souffredouleur* or "whipping-boy." Whenever the Son of Heaven is naughty or inattentive, the 'ha'hachutsze is beaten or disgraced].

(2) A Decree. Wên-siang has memorialized stating that his complaint is still not abated, and requesting to be relieved of his weighty functions. Let him be granted two months' congé, to attend in tranquility to the care of his health. He need not vacate his position as a member of the Grand Council.

(3) The Superintendents of the three Imperial Manufactories, viz., Sih-kw'ei at Nanking, Wên-che at Soochow, and Wên-che at Hangchow, jointly memorialize representing the impossibility, under existing circumstances, of complying with the injunctions laid upon them, at the instance of the Board of Revenue, to adhere to the old regulation system of prices for materials and wages. Times have changed, and everything has risen in price ; among the causes assigned for this being insufficient production and the large foreign export of raw silk. The current year is one of *ta yün* 大運 or supply on a large scale, among the requirements being lute-string for the pages and outer coverings of the Manuscript Record of the late reign now in course of preparation, embroideries for the insignia of the chief Imperial concubine Tun I Hwan Kwei-fei, (See *Gazette* of January 25th, 1875), chair coverings for the hall containing the tablets of Their late deceased Majesties, coverings for the catafalques on the funeral procession and hangings for the temples at which oblations were to be presented ; beside materials for the scrolls upon which patents of distinction according to the Act of Grace are to be engrossed.—Rescript sanctioning, as a provisional measure, the payment of current market prices for materials and wages for the supplies due for the current year.

Jan. 9th—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the supervising Censors of the south division of the city, who have reported a case of barbarous flogging inflicted by certain thief-takers attached to the Gendarmerie. The Board of Punishments is commanded to institute stringent action in the matter.

(2) A decree of the two Empresses negating memorials in which Wêng T'ung-ho and Hia T'ung-shan, the two high functionaries appointed yesterday to act as preceptors to His Majesty, entreat that they may be relieved of so responsible an office.

Jan. 10th—(Court Circular). The Prince of Ch'un returned thanks for being placed

in superintendence of His Majesty's studies. Wêng T'ung-ho and Hia T'ung-shan returned thanks for their appointment as Imperial preceptors. The *beiléh* Kw'ang and his colleagues (Ministers of the Presence) returned thanks for their appointment as instructors of His Majesty (see Decree of 8th inst.)

(1) A decree referring to the memorial lately presented by the Censor Pien Pao-ts'üan, on the murder case at Yü'hang in Chehkiang, respecting which, on the grounds that the conduct of the new trial held by the Literary Chancellor Hu Jui-lan had been unsatisfactory, he prayed that the case be placed in the hands of the Board of Punishments for investigation. This application, the Decree continues, was negatived in view of the embarrassments necessarily entailed in the transfer of a judicial case to Peking, and with the apprehension that grave inconvenience must be suffered by the parties and witnesses in the journey to and fro. The Court of Censorate now, however, memorializes stating that Wang Shu-p'ing and others of the *literati* of Chehkiang have forwarded a joint address in which they pray that the case may be removed to Peking and placed in the hands of the Board of Punishments for trial. It is necessary, in the interests of justice, and in order to set the public mind at rest, that the statements alleged in this address be thoroughly investigated. Let all the proceedings in the case, together with the chief prisoners and the principal witnesses, be brought up and arraigned before the Board of Punishments for trial, in conformity with the requirements of equity. What is essential is that the truth be arrived at, without either unjust severity or culpable indulgence. Let an official be appointed by the Governor of Chehkiang to escort the parties to Peking with all due care. Let there not be the slightest approach to negligence or remissness, under penalty of Our displeasure.

Abstracts of Memorials. Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, reports that Twan Jui-mei 段瑞梅, commandant of the Ts'u-hiung sub-division, has been appointed as acting Brigadier-General of the T'êng-yüeh (Momein) command.

Jan. 11th.—(1) A decree. Let Kin Pang-k'ing 靳邦慶 succeed to the vacant post of Prefect of K'ü-chow Fu, in Chehkiang.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from the high authorities of Shêngking, impeaching two Imperial clansmen for misconduct,

—the one for passing counterfeit cash, the other, who was banished to Moukden with his family, in 1873, on account of misconduct at Peking, for committing robbery with violence as a sequel to gambling transactions. Both the delinquents are ordered to be transported to the Heh-lung-kiang (Amoor) region, and kept under strict surveillance.

(3) A decree of the two Empresses, adopting the 14th of May next as the date, selected by the Astronomical Board, on which His Majesty shall commence his studies. (See *Gazette* of 8th inst.)

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials from different provincial Commissioners of Finance and Justice, reporting their assumption of office.

Jan. 12th.—(1) Hi-K'ai, acting chief Resident in Tibet, reports having held, on the 17th October last, and following days, the autumn inspection of the Chinese and Tibetan troops at Lassa, as the regulations require. A favourable account is given of the proficiency of the troops in their martial exercises.

(2) In a postscript memorial, Hi-K'ai reports the steps he has taken for the annual inspection of the three cantonments and lesser military posts, together with the frontier guard stations, in Ulterior Tibet. This inspection should be annually held by one of the two Residents in turn; but as the chief Resident, Sung-kwei, has not yet arrived at his post, and the memorialist himself is ill, he had appointed a captain of the Chinese garrison in Tibet to discharge the duty as his delegate.

Jan. 13th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Mu-t'u-shan, Military Governor of Kirin, with reference to the misconduct of certain military officials in charge of the frontier-posts, who have winked at the proceedings of the lawless goldhunters for pecuniary considerations. The execution of some of the chief delinquents is recommended. In consideration of the fact that the abuse now brought to light is one of longstanding, exceptional leniency is decreed with reference to the case. Four Manchu officers, already stripped of their rank, are condemned to transportation into military servitude in redemption of their crime. In any future case of similar conduct, the highest penalty of the law shall assuredly be inflicted.

(2) Abstracts of memorials. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, applies for sanction to relieving brevet-General Ma Kw'ei 馬魁 of his substantive appointment as sergeant (*pa tsung*) in the

Taku Cantonment. Rescript.—Let the Board of War take note.

(3) The Military Governor of Tsitsihar, Fêng Shên, memorializes denouncing an officer holding by hereditary succession one of the lesser degrees of nobility. An inhabitant of the city of Tsitsihar named Wang Ki-wên has complained to the effect that a Manchu named Lien Shêng, of the rank of *K'i-tu-yü*, had been on terms of intimacy in his household, and was accustomed to be received without restraint by complainant's wife. Having observed attempts at seduction practised by Lien Shêng, complainant had remonstrated with him and had severely rebuked his wife. Lien Shêng, however, being bent on fulfilling his designs, had paid no attention to the remonstrances addressed to him, and hence the complaint was lodged. On Lien Shêng being summoned before the proper Court to answer the charge preferred, he presumed upon his position so far as to refuse submission to its authority, roaring in an unseemly manner, and making bold even to treat the Court with contempt. His degradation from his rank is solicited, in order that he may be placed on trial and punished according to law.—Granted by rescript.

Jan. 14th.—(Court Circular). The Literary Examiners for the Province of Szech'wan, P'an Sze-lien and Wên Chung-han, paid their respects on their return to Peking, and had audience.

(1) A decree based upon a report from the Board of Punishments on a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang referred to it by previous rescript, with reference to the case of Hwang Kin-shan, degraded from the rank of Brigadier-General of Suhchow in Kansuh. He has been accused of acts of rape, of putting to death an officer under his command who was guilty of no offence, and of harbouring an adoptive son named Hwang Wan-fah, through which act he encouraged designs to raise rebellion. After being accused of these offences, instead of appearing to answer the charges, he returned without leave to his native place, where he assembled a multitude of persons and provided them with arms on the pretext of raising volunteers for service in the field. Such criminal conduct on the part of an officer of the rank filled by Hwang Kin-shan is unpardonable. Tso Tsung-Tang is commanded to cause him to be summarily executed in presence of the army. His accuser, Yang Tsze-ying, who has been recommended for a lieutenant-colonelcy, only came forward to lodge the information in consequence of the murder of his cousin, and his action

does not partake of the nature of disinterested zeal. It is decreed that he be sent back to his native place, to be kept under strict surveillance by the local authorities, and not permitted to join the army as a volunteer.

(2) A decree ordering renewed prayers for snow, in consequence of the long-continued drought.

(3) Li Pei-king, the newly appointed Governor of Kweichow, memorializes reporting that he received on the 13th November a despatch from the Board of Civil Office, announcing that on the 12th October a decree was issued appointing him to the post in question. A humble native of Hunan, who, from the position of a Hanlin graduate, was named Literary Chancellor of Kweichow, and subsequently raised by the Imperial grace to the position of Financial Commissioner of the province, he has been honoured with successive distinctions, and now returns his humble thanks for the promotion accorded.

Jan. 15th-16th.—(N. B.—The "closing of the seals having taken place on the 15th inst., being ten days before the Chinese New Year, the *Gazette* will as usual appear only on alternate days for the ensuing month.)

(1) A Decree. Wu T'ang has memorialized requesting leave to retire from his post on the ground of continued illness. He is granted leave to retire to his home for the care of his health.

(2) A Decree. Let Li Han-chang be transferred to fill the post of Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan. Pending his arrival, let Wên Kêh (the Financial Commissioner) take charge of the duties of the office. Let Wêng T'ung-tsioh act for the time being, as Governor-General of Hu Kwang.

(3) A Decree censuring certain irregularities which are stated to have grown up in connection with the provincial triennial examinations. Disregard of the rules which regulate the time for handing in the completed essays, and which forbid crowding and uproar, is to be stringently repressed by the Superintendents and Examiners.

(4-7) Decrees in reply to four memorials from the Censor Chang Tao-yüan, on the following subjects:—

a. Irregularities in connection with the literary examinations. More sedulous conformity with the established rules is enjoined.

b. A proposal for more accurate financial statements with reference to provincial revenues and disbursements. The

provincial governments are commanded to bestow attention in this respect.

c. Greater care in the trial of capital cases by intendants of Circuit. Commands accordingly.

d. Exposure of exactions practised by official underlings, in cases where waste lands are brought under cultivation. Prohibition of such practices enjoined.

(8) Liu Tien 劉典, an official of the 3rd rank, lately living in retirement at his home in Hunan, and who has been nominated Assistant Commissioner for military affairs in Shensi and Kansuh, reports his departure on the 16th December *en route* to join the head-quarters of Tso Tsung-t'ang, his previous application for leave to stay at home to take care of his mother having been disallowed.

(9) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes stating that the Sub-Prefect T'ao Yen-show and the other officials appointed to escort the Burmese tribute envoys on their departure from Peking, have reported that the mission had been duly escorted, in concert with the local authorities, to the frontier of Chihli, in the department of Ts'ze Chow, whence, on the 9th December last, they crossed into the province of Honan.

Jan. 17th-18th.—(1) A decree based upon memorials heretofore received from Shên Pao-chêng, as Imperial Commissioner in Formosa, and the high authorities of Fuhkien, with reference to improvements in the official organization for the northern half of Formosa. The proposals having been taken into consideration by the Grand Council and the Boards of Civil Office and War, the arrangements recommended are sanctioned as follows:—A Prefect of North Formosa is to be appointed, to reside at Banka (near Tamsui), with the designation of T'ai-peh Fu 台北府, as a subordinate to the Taotai of T'aiwan. A district magistracy of Tamsui is further to be created, as an adjunct to the Prefecture. The office of sub-Prefect of Tamsui, heretofore existing, with head-quarters at Teuk-cham, is to be abolished, and in its stead a new district magistracy is to be created, with the designation Sin-chuh Hien 新竹縣. A third district magistracy, under the name of I-lan Hien 宜蘭縣 is to be established in the stead of the Ko-ma-lan T'ing sub-Prefecture, and the sub-Prefect heretofore holding office at Ko-ma-lan is to be removed, in the capacity of assistant to the Prefect of T'ai-peh, to reside at Kelung. As it has been decided, furthermore, that the Governor of Fuhkien

is to reside periodically in Formosa, he is to be invested with certain powers of appointment for the subordinate military officials employed in the island, becoming the immediate superior of the Brigadier-General of Formosa. The commandantship of An-p'ing is abolished. With reference to the southern part of the island, the sub-Prefect of that division is to take up his quarters at Peinam, and the functionary heretofore designated the sub-Prefect of the northern division is to remove to Shui-sha.

(2) A memorial presented by five of the doctors of the Hanlin, representing a meritorious case of wifely devotion. The mother of Sü Fu, a Hanlin Expositor, it is stated, was in 1844 with her husband, then Taotai in Shantung, when he fell dangerously ill. Vowing to sacrifice her own life for his, she cut a piece of flesh from her thigh and mixed it with the remedies prepared for him. No sooner had he taken the remedy than his sickness suddenly abated. Upon this his wife abjured the use of wines and meats, and abstained from all descriptions of fine apparel for the remainder of her life, a period of close upon thirty years. After her death, which took place a few weeks ago, the scar of her self-inflicted wound was plainly distinguishable by her kinsfolk, whose emotions were profoundly stirred at the sight. Appealing to numerous precedents during the last ten years, the memorialists apply for sanction for the erection of a memorial structure in honour of such virtuous devotion.—Granted by rescript.

Jan. 19th-20th.—(1) A decree with reference to the propositions recently laid before the Throne by Ts'ung shih, acting Military Governor of Shêngking, for the reform of the official organization in that province. The scheme having been referred for deliberation to a special Council, its adoption has been recommended. It is decreed, accordingly, that the Military Governor of Shêngking do henceforward assume control over the Boards of War and Punishments, and at the same time become the direct superior of the Civil Governor of Fêng-t'ien, with the same style and title as employed by Governors-General in other provinces. All matters relating to the administration of justice and to questions concerning the Manchu or Chinese population of Fêng-t'ien Fu are to be subject to his control. The Civil Governorship of Fêng-t'ien is to be raised to the dignity of the second rank, and the incumbent placed on the same footing as an ordinary provincial Governor,

with the addition, similarly, of the title of member of the Court of Censorate. The Civil Governor is to have jurisdiction over all civil and criminal law cases. The five Boards established at Moukden are to confine themselves to their respective duties as proposed in the Memorial. The vice-Governorship of Moukden is to be abolished, and the post converted into the Intendancy of Fêng-t'ien. Magistracies are to be filled by either Manchus or Chinese; and Manchu officials are to confine themselves to their duties as collectors of the Banner landrents or the functions of police, and to refrain from interference in the general administration. All officials are, in conclusion, called upon to exert themselves in carrying out the reform of longstanding abuses, which has now been inaugurated.

(2) A Decree granting one month's congé to the Prince of Tun for the benefit of his health, and conferring the custody of the key of the seal of the Imperial Clan Court on the Prince of Kung. She Toh (the Prince of Li) is invested with the acting Captain Generalship of the Bordered Yellow Banner.

(3) A Decree. Let Kin Kwoh-shên 金國琛 succeed to the vacancy in the post of Grain Comptroller in Kwangtung. (N. B.—The official above-named is a native of Kiangsu, a protégé of the late Governor-General Tsêng Kwoh-fan, and a man of some distinction and repute.)

(4) The Court of Censorate forwards an appeal presented by a native of Honan, named T'an Che-hwa, complaining of an act of burglary and murder committed in March last on his father's premises by a gang of villains, armed with foreign firearms, who cut down his father, his brother, and a servant, and carried off about 950 Taels in silver beside other property. Under the influence of bribes, the local authorities are declared to have granted immunity to the perpetrators of the crime.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) Mu-t'u-shan, Military Governor of Kirin, reports that the winter military hunting expedition has been carried out in conformity with regulation. He proceeded, on the 25th November, at the head of a body of about 1,000 officers and men, provided with tents, camp-kettles, and rations, into the mountains, where the hunt was prosecuted in three different localities within the old domain, and in thirteen different localities within the newly organized hunting-ground. The performances of the soldiery were at the

same time passed in review, with satisfactory results. On the 6th December, an official was despatched, in charge of the trophies of the chase obtained for presentation to His Majesty; and the expedition thereupon returned to Kirin.

Jan. 21st-22nd.—(Court Circular). She-tsêng and Yü-ts'ing—both former superintendents of Maritime Customs at Canton—returned thanks for being favoured with the remission of money payments.—The Yamên of Gendarmerie reported the apprehension of a gang of 43 gamblers.

(1) A decree authorizing the newly promoted Financial and Judicial Commissioners of Kwei-chow to come in succession to Peking for audience.

No other documents of importance.

Jan. 23rd-24th.—A decree in answer to a memorial from the supervising Censor Hwang Hwai-shên, who has prayed for the institution of reform and the removal of abuses. In the matter of transfers of office from outgoing to incoming incumbents of magistracies, it is represented that the superior authorities are in the habit of winking at deficiency in the accounts, instead of denouncing them to the Throne according to regulation. Favouritism in this respect is forbidden for the future. As regards the excessive number of officials employed at *lekin* tax stations, who not only cause a wasteful expenditure for salaries, but also give rise to various irregular practices, the provincial governments are commanded to dismiss unnecessary officials and to take steps toward reducing the number of tax-stations. The watchers and guardboats employed at the *likin* barriers are furthermore warned against stoppage and seizure of merchandize while *in transitu*, and the infliction of arbitrary acts of annoyance, for purposes of extortion. Any such offences as these are to be severely punished. The hearing and decision of judicial proceedings are also to be expedited.

(2) A decree acceding to an application on the part of the Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng, who has prayed that the newly appointed General-in-chief of Fuhkien, T'ang Ting-kw'ei, and the newly appointed Brigadier-General of Chêng-ting in Chihli, Wu Ch'ang-k'ing, may be left for the present in Kiangsu, where they are rendering valuable services in connection with the preparations in progress for defensive measures. Their appointments are to be temporarily filled by other officers.

(3) A Decree. Let the Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, Liu Ch'ang-yao, proceed forthwith to his post. He

need not come to Peking to receive Our commands. (See *Gazette* of Dec. 3rd for appointment of Liu Ch'ang-yeo. It is customary for officials, on their transfer or promotion, to request permission to visit Peking for audience. In the present case, Liu Ch'ang-yeo will proceed direct from Kwangsi to Yünnan.)

(4) A Decree. Li Han-chang and his colleagues have memorialized Us requesting that an officer, who has vacated the acting appointment of *tu-sze* (captain), be stripped of his official rank and included among the number of the persons about to be arraigned, for the purposes of a judicial enquiry. It has been deposed by Li Chên-kwoh 李珍國, * lately acting as captain in command at Nan-tien, in the proceedings relating to the murder of Ma Kia-li (Mr. Margary), that the notables of the T'êng-yüeh (Momein) jurisdiction, having heard that foreigners were coming in that direction, at the head of a large force of soldiers, collected trainbands for the protection of their persons and property; [of which they] had communicated an intimation to him.

[Such being the statement made], it is most necessary that a searching investigation be at once instituted, in order to ascertain whether any farther circumstances are involved. We command that Li Chên-kwoh be forthwith stripped of his rank and handed over to Li Han-chang and his colleagues, to be arraigned together with Tsiang Tsung-han and Wu K'i-liang, the Brigadier-General and sub-Prefect heretofore degraded, and subjected, as circumstances may render necessary, to stringent judicial examination, in order that the demands of justice be fulfilled. Let the Yamên concerned take note.

Jan. 25th-28th.—(Court Circular.) On the first day of the New Year—26th January—the Imperial Board of Astronomers reported that the wind set from the North-east quarter, presaging longevity and a plenteous harvest.

(1) Ying-kwei, President of the Board of Civil office, Superintendent of the office for Colonial affairs, etc., reports the receipt of a petition from two nobles of the eastern *beileh* banner of the Chaluth Mongols, who complain that the widow of the *beileh* of the Banner is in league with a noble named Sukhturchabu, acting as administrator, to tyrannize over the commonalty. It appears that the *beileh* Tamulin Wangtseleh, after being betrothed to Yen Ts'ing, daughter of a *beitsze* of the

Khorchin tribe, died before the marriage was fulfilled. A son of one of the two present complainants was adopted as his heir and successor; but the betrothed lady, having vowed herself to a life of widowhood as the actual wife of the deceased, and having consequently assumed her place in his household, has acted in the most rapacious manner, seizing the goods and chattels of members of the tribe, and leaguering herself with the *daidji* Sukhturchatu on terms of illicit intercourse. An enquiry is consequently prayed for.—Ordered by previous rescript.

(2) The Censor Yüan Ch'êng-yeh memorializes representing the injustice and cruelty which are perpetrated in the provinces, in connection with judicial cases removed to the provincial capital for further hearing. More than a hundred deaths at the very least, he represents, are annually caused in each province through this cause, and, in some instances, to say some hundreds would be within the mark. He depicts in forcible language the sufferings of the persons whose attendance is compelled as parties or witnesses in proceedings of the kind. Persons are torn from their families—compelled to make long journeys under circumstances of great hardship, exposed to the exactions of rapacious underlings and the cruelty of jailors, to pestilential infection in summer, and in winter to starvation and cold. As a remedy for these evils, he proposes more precise regulations as to the time within which cases are to be heard and disposed of.

Jan. 29th-30th—(1) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor-General of the Yellow River, memorializes reporting the works which are in contemplation for embanking the Southern side of the River, in the provinces of Chihli, Honan, and Shantung, below T'ung-wa-siang 銅瓦廂. Surveys have been held and measurements effected, the result of which is stated to be that for a distance of 330 *li* (one hundred and ten miles), extending from Lan-yang to the crossing of the Grand Canal, at Shih-Li-Pao, embankment works are necessary, with exception of the 190 *li* lately executed in the Ho-tsêh district (see *Gazette* of August 13th, 1875), which has a width at base of ten *chang* (140 feet), narrowing to three *chang* at the summit, and a height of one *chang* four *ch'ih*. The cost of executing the works still necessary, estimated on the basis of the earth-work at so much per cubic measure, amounts to two or three hundred thousand taels—a sum which, under the existing conditions of financial exigency, no means

* This is the officer better known as Li hsieh-t'ai, or Leesetahee.

of providing can be devised. As an expedient suggested by the necessities of the case, it is proposed that the provinces of Chihli and Honan shall detail draughts from their forces of disciplined regulars and irregulars to labour at the works, under the direction of skilled officers and soldiers. A reorganization of the civil and military River staff is farther proposed, to the extent of reducing by 1,090 men the number of the soldiery composing it, and abolishing certain official posts, whilst increasing the force by the addition of 614 soldiers and a number of officers at other points. The current annual expenditure for the conservancy of the River is stated at an average of about 200,000 and odd Taels. The new arrangements proposed must be regarded as provisional only, to be tested by the experience of two or three years.—Proposals referred by rescript to the Board for consideration.

Jan. 31st—Feb. 1st—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Wu Hung-ên, who has represented that the rules relating to the fortnightly reading and expounding in public of the homilies of the Sacred Edict, composed by the Emperor Yung Chêng, have been allowed to fall into disuetude. Injunctions are now laid upon all district authorities and superintendents of literary study, to the effect that real observance of the rule in question must be practised. With reference to a supplementary memorial in which the same Censor declares that numerous malpractices have crept in at the official examinations, such as the employment of substitutes and the like, increased vigilance is enjoined upon the responsible officials.

(2 and 3) Memorials from Wêng T'ung-ho and Hia T'ung-shan, the high officers lately nominated as preceptors to the young Emperor, craving permission to decline the honour of this charge. The first-named, after referring to the fact that he was appointed a member of the committee of Imperial preceptors in 1864, and continued for ten years to enjoy in that capacity the favour of his deceased Majesty, grounds his application on the score of enfeebled health. Hia T'ung-shan, on the other hand, after describing himself as an unworthy native of Chebkiang, who has risen through the grades of the Hanlin to occupy a metropolitan charge, represents his pronunciation of the language as so provincial that he feels himself unqualified for the position of instruction.—(For rescript see *Gazette* of Jan. 9th.)

(4) The two Censors superintending the South section of the Chinese city of Peking memorialize representing a gross case of unlawful arrest and of the infliction of barbarous torture by certain runners in the employ of one of the detectives of the Yamên of Gendarmerie. On the 31st December last they were appealed to by a man named Kwoh Chung-jên, with the complaint that his brother had been carried off by these men and confined in a private lock-up in a certain lane. On search being made the man, and also another prisoner, with the chains, etc., with which they were confined, were discovered and brought before the Censors, together with a number of the individuals implicated. The man Kwoh stated that he was a thread-seller by trade, making it his business at the same time to purchase broken *cash*, which he afterwards disposed of. The police appear to have charged him with trafficking in *cash* for the melting-pot, and inveigled him consequently to the lock-up, where he was stripped of his clothing, fastened by the hands and feet to an iron bar, and gagged by having his mouth crammed with ashes. After these preliminaries he was put through a course of examination; and on subsequent days he was exposed naked in the courtyard until nearly frozen, whilst secured by the hands and feet to the iron bar, was pulled by the hair and ears, made to kneel on chains, and otherwise tortured. The Censors apply for a rescript ordering the guilty parties to be placed on trial.—(For rescript see *Gazette* of Jan. 9th.)

Feb. 2nd-3rd (1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Hi-k'ai, acting resident in Tibet, who has submitted for sanction the name of a Counsellor recommended for the office of senior *K'an-pu* (Minister of State.) The appointment of Ts'ing-yao-loh-ch'ui-djikh-mei is accordingly confirmed.

(2-5) Decrees distributing among various high officers the acting charge of appointments filled by Yung-luh, who is placed in mourning for 100 days by the death of his mother. Ch'unghow takes his place as senior Lieutenant-General of Gendarmerie, En-ch'êng that as Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and two Manchu dignitaries his commands of Banners.

(6) A decree ordaining renewed prayers for snow, to be offered at the State Temples on the 5th instant, in consequence of the long protracted drought at Peking.

(7) A decree awarding a memorial structure in honour of the mother of Yung-luh, just deceased, whose virtuous conduct and self-sacrifice in tending her mother-in-law

during sickness have been represented by the Court of Censorate.

(8) Wên-siang, Grand Secretary, etc. etc. memorializes entreating permission to resign his functions as a member of the Grand Council, in order that he may devote himself exclusively to the conduct of foreign affairs, his health continuing unrestored. He represents that since the winter of 1873 he has suffered severely from asthma, and has repeatedly asked leave to resign his public duties, without obtaining the Imperial assent. Some time since he requested that he might be relieved of all his various weighty functions, in order that he might concentrate his attention on the business of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs; but to this request he likewise failed to receive a favourable response. After reiterated entreaties, he was relieved of his appointments in connection with the Boards and Banners, being still continued as a member of the Grand Council and the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. Fully conscious as he is of his own utter unworthiness of such favours as have been vouchsafed to him, he would in no wise venture to be swayed by regard for his own decrepid frame; and he consequently resumed his duties, on the expiry of his congé, putting forth all his efforts in the attempt to do his duty in return. His complaint is, however, so persistent as to defy all his endeavours. Since the winter set in, his asthma has deprived him of rest at night, so that his feet and hands have become swollen and his faculties impaired. He feels constrained to ask for relief from his duties as member of the Grand Council, in order that he may devote his undivided attention to the conduct of foreign affairs, promising to exert to the uttermost such strength as may be left to him.—For rescript granting two months' congé see *Gazette* of Jan. 9th.

Feb. 4th-5th—(1-3), Memorials by the Censor Chang Tao-yüan, on the three following subjects:—

a. The necessity of accurate returns of the receipts and expenditure from all the provinces, with a view to financial economy. During the period of nearly 20 years of rebellion undergone by the Southern provinces, all branches of the revenue were injuriously affected, whilst at the same time expenditure was enormously increased. Notwithstanding that peace has now been restored, the former prosperity of the provinces has not yet been recovered, and much land still lies waste, with consequent deficiency in the yield of the land-tax. In consequence of

the establishment of foreign relations, moreover, the yield from both Customs' duties (i.e. by Provincial exchequers) and *lekin* has declined; whilst the receipts from the sale of office and titles are daily growing less, and the salt administration is in a state of continual dread of stoppage of the quantities put on sale. The memorials from the various provinces shew how manifold are the demands which are urged on the public exchequer; and in order to make ends meet as fairly as possible, a more effective general accountability is requisite.

b. The importance of requiring all capital cases in which sentence is pronounced by district Magistrates, to be revised by the Taotai under whom they are placed, after an actual rehearing.

c. The urgent importance of devoting attention to the personal surrounding of the young Emperor, whose education is now about to begin. The eunuchs in immediate attendance upon his Majesty, should in all cases be men of mature age and tried integrity.

Feb. 6th-7th.—(1) A memorial from the Censor Chang Tao-yüan, exposing the abuses which are perpetrated by the revenue clerks of District Magistracies, in connection with the assessment of land newly brought under cultivation, after lying waste and unclaimed in consequence of the rebellion. The exactions which settlers upon such lands are made to suffer, discourage the agricultural class from applying for title deeds placing the land on the register for taxation, so that the revenue and the people alike suffer through the greed of official underlings.—Rescript ordering enquiry and action on the part of the provincial Governments, already published.

(2) A memorial from the Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Grand Council, submitting the name of an individual as secretary to the Council, in succession to Ki Pang-k'ing, lately promoted to be Prefect of K'ü-chow Fu in Cheh-kiang.

(3) Wu T'ang, Governor-General of Szech'wan, memorializes soliciting leave to retire into private life on the score of ill-health.—For rescript see *Gazette* of Jan. 15th.

Feb. 8th-9th.—The Court of Censorate memorializes presenting the appeal laid before it by 28 officials, natives of Cheh-kiang and holding office at Peking, with reference to the Yang Nai-wu case, in which the Literary Examiner, Hu Jui-lan, acting as High Commissioner for the new trial, is accused of lending himself to endeavours to screen the injustice

perpetrated by the judicial authorities. (See *Gazettes* of November and December last). Referring to the memorials and decrees that have already appeared on this subject, the petitioners proceed to point out various discrepancies in the evidence upon which it has been sought to confirm the sentence passed upon Yang Nai-wu, as guilty of the murder of Koh P'in-lien, in concert with the latter's wife, Koh Pi-she. It is alleged that the Magistrate of the Yü-hang district obtained by fraud, from the apothecary, Ts'ien Pao-shêng, the latter's written statement respecting the sale of the arsenic, upon the possession of which the question of Yang Nai-wu's complicity hinges; giving the apothecary in return a guarantee, written in red ink, that he should be held harmless in the matter. An *alibi* having moreover been proved on behalf of Yang Nai-wu, in connection with the period assigned for his purchase of the drug, it is asserted that a date has been falsified in the official records. The fact that several witnesses, who were in a position to testify to the general looseness of the woman Koh Pi-she's behaviour, were not called at the trial, is further commented upon. The removal of the case for a fresh trial at Peking is prayed for, in conformity with precedents in 1824 and 1873 respectively.—For rescript granting the request see *Gazette* of Jan. 10th.

Feb. 10th-11th—(1) A Decree. Let Hu Chung-ho 胡中和, General-in-chief of Yünnan, proceed without delay to his post, in order that the duty of his office may be adequately fulfilled. Let Lien-ch'ang 聯昌 act provisionally as General-in-chief in Szech'wan, his place as Brigadier General of the Ch'ung-k'ing command being filled provisionally by T'ien Tsai-t'ien. (N.B.—Hu Chung-ho was appointed General-in-chief in Yünnan on the 2nd November, 1874, on the transfer of Ma Ju-lung to Hunan. He has continued since then to hold his late office in Szech'wan, pending the arrival of his successor).

(2) A Decree, ordaining the following transfers of *tsung-ping* or Brigadier Generals:—Ch'ên Tsi-ts'ing from the Yeo Kiang command in Kwangsi, to the Ch'wan Peh command in Szech'wan; Yang Yü-k'o 楊玉科 from the K'ai-hwa command in Yünnan, to be his successor; Yang Fuh-tung 楊復東 to succeed to the K'ai-hwa command; Chu Hung-Chang to be transferred from the Yung Chow command in Hunan to the Ho-li command in Yünnan; and Chang Pao-ho to succeed him. (N.B.

—Yang Yü-k'o is at present acting General-in-chief in Yünnan. See *Gazette* of Aug. 20th, 1875.)

(3) The Governor of Shansi, Pao Yüan-shên, memorialises dilating upon the iniquity of a district Magistrate within his jurisdiction, who, after being cashiered, in consequence of the character given to him at the last triennial scrutiny, to the effect that he was "grasping and tyrannical," has had the audacity to present a petition denying this charge. The case follows closely upon that of Chih-wên, a sub-Prefect in Chehkiang, who similarly appealed against his sentence (see *Gazette* of Dec. 1st, 1875), and shews the necessity for restrictive legislation. The Governor consequently submits a proposal for the enactment of a penal clause in addition to the law existing on this subject, as a deterrent against any future appeals of this kind.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Civil Office for consideration.

Feb. 12th-13th—(1-2) Memorials from the Governors of Yünnan, Kwangsi, Shantung, and Kweichow, reporting the number of octogenarian and nonagenarian candidates at the literary examinations of last autumn, who are recommended for honorary degrees according to regulation. The particulars are as follow: In Yünnan, 4 candidates above the age of 80, who have failed to satisfy the requirements of the examiners, although they have undergone all the prescribed tests, but who in other respects come up to the needful standard. In Kwangsi, the candidates were the following: 2 aged 91, 1 aged 94, and 2 of 90, with nine others above the age of 80. In Shantung, ten are reported as nonagenarian, and twelve as octogenarian. In Kweichow, two candidates above the age of eighty are reported.

Feb. 14th—No documents of importance.

Feb. 15th—(1) A decree appointing En-fuh 恩福 to the newly created post of Taotai of Fêng-t'ien; his successor in the post of Taotai of the Tai-Shun-Kwang Intendancy in Chihli, to be Hwang Hwai-shên, 黃槐森, at present one of the Supervising Censors.

(2) A decree ordaining renewed prayers for snow, in consequence of the continued drought. The deities of the Heh Lung T'an and Po Lung T'an Temples are on this occasion to be propitiated with offerings of incense.

(3) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu-Kwang, Imperial Commissioner for an Enquiry in Yünnan, and Sieh Hwan, ex vice-President of a Board, Imperial Commissioner-adjoint for an enquiry in Yün-

nan, kneeling represent that a clue has been obtained by investigation to the fact that an officer, lately holding an acting appointment as captain, did lay a plan for opposing the entry of foreigners into the country; and request a decree, in the first instance, stripping him of his rank, in order that he may be placed on trial.

Your servants have to state that, on finding manifest falsehoods and suppressions in the depositions taken from the prisoners guilty of the murder of Ma Kia-li (Mr. Margary), and the depositions of the sub-prefect Wu K'i-ling and of Captain Li Chên-kwoh, handed in by themselves, they, on the one hand, commissioned the officials who were placed by decree upon their staff, to take measures for eliciting the actual facts, as they have reported in their memorial dated the 1st of the 12th Moon (November 28th, 1875); and subsequently appointed additional delegates in the persons of the Taotai Ting Sze-pin and the Prefect Tziang Sih-hün, to coöperate with the Financial and Judicial Commissioners of the province, in subjecting the prisoners to rigorous examination. All that the prisoners confessed was, that they had committed robbery [and that], owing to a foreigner (or, the foreigners) having discharged a pistol-shot which killed one of their accomplices named A Yung, they then and there resolved to resist apprehension, and murdered Ma Kia-li and his four attendants. They firmly refused, however, to confess who had been their instigator. Wu K'i-liang, for his part, also denied that he neither knew aught of the affair, or had any share in planning what took place. Li Chên-kwoh returned the most absolute denial to the statements made in Wei T'o-ma's despatch, and it was not until he had been subjected to repeated cross-examination that he uttered a statement to the effect that "in the 12th moon of last year (January, 1875), the notables of the sub-prefecture of T'eng-yüeh (Momein), on learning that foreigners were about to come forward at the head of a large body of troops, and fearing that they would commit disorders, raised a force of local trainbands for the protection of their own lives and property; [of which they] had communicated an intimation."

The circumstances thus indicated are sufficient in themselves to warrant suspicion; and, coincidentally, the Brigadier-General Li Shêng, of the Sui-tsing command, who was sent forward by your servant Li Han-chang, whilst on his journey, to proceed to T'eng-yüeh and make

enquiries there privately, having returned to the provincial capital, reports as follows, viz:—"That the murder of Ma Kia-li came of the act of lawless offenders who offer resistance to capture for the commission of robbery, but that, according to common report along the roads, the secret instigation of the lawless savages to obstruct the progress of the foreigners and prevent them from entering the country, was the act of Li Chên-kwoh; who, however, at the time Ma Kia-li was murdered, was not on the spot, nor were any soldiers concerned in the affair."

It appears from the correspondence forming part of the case, that in the third moon of this year (April 6th to May 4th, 1875), the Governor, your servant Ts'ên Yü-ying, received a report from Li Chên-kwoh, [forwarding] two official letters addressed to him (Li) on separate occasions by the notables of T'eng-yüeh; and in this report, there unquestionably appears statement on the part of Li Chên-kwoh, that [he is] "taking vigorous and active precautionary measures, with the view of stoutly defending the region under his care." Although Ts'ên Yü-ying wrote commanding him to quiet the people, and prevent any action on their part (*lit.*, quiet, or appease, and obstruct, the people), and allow no unfounded alarm to spread, yet this was after the affair had already taken place, and it was too late. It appears from this, consequently, that although Li Chên-kwoh had no intention to commit murder, he is liable to a charge of having laid plans to obstruct [the expedition]; and Your servants have agreed, after taking counsel together, that he should not be suffered to take advantage of his official rank as a cover for lying evasions, gaining time with false statements in dread of incurring punishment. They think it their duty to solicit a rescript, in the first instance, stripping of his rank Li Chên-kwoh, a Colonel by brevet, on the list for immediate employment as Lieut.-Colonel, late acting in the post of Captain-Commandant of Nan-tien. [They propose to] bring him up together with Wu K'i-liang, the officer now already degraded from the rank of sub-Prefect, and to order Tsiang Tsung-han, now already degraded from the rank of Brigadier-General, to be brought without a day's delay to the provincial capital, in order that they may be rigorously examined, as circumstances may require, to the end that the demands of justice may be fulfilled. They accordingly join with Your servant Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor and acting Governor-General, in laying this

Memorial before the Sacred Glance of Your Majesties the Empresses and Your Majesty the Emperor.

(For Decree in reply, see *Gazette* of Jan. 24th.)

Feb. 15th.—(4) The supervising Censor, Hwang Hwai-shên, memorialises, submitting his views on several subjects affecting the interest of the State and of the people, with reference to which he urges the necessity of reform. These are as follows:—1° The system of handing over district offices in the provinces. Grave abuses flourish in this connection, as district Magistrates, who have filled their own pockets by misappropriations of the revenue, are frequently in arrear in their returns to the amount of thousands of taels, which the superior authorities compel the incoming appointee to charge himself with. Deficit after deficit may thus be incurred without a penalty, the defaulting functionary being even, perhaps, rewarded with a lucrative office, in order to enable him to square accounts. This is a practice which requires to be looked into. 2° The multiplicity of officials employed at *lekin* stations. The Censor has learned that the number of officials, from the rank of Taotai down to that of the humblest deputy, attached to *lekin* offices throughout the empire, varies from some scores, it may be, to a dozen or more at the lowest. The salaries assigned to these officials vary from Tls. 100 and upwards to a minimum of Tls. 30 or Tls. 40 per mensem, the superior authorities adopting this as a means of affording employment to expectant officials. Even granting that these employés indulge in no malpractices, their excessive numbers constitute a serious drain upon the revenue; and reduction should be carried into effect. As regards the institution of cruisers and watchmen to guard against smuggling at the *lekin* barriers, the system is excellent in itself, as a needful protection to the revenue; but most oppressive acts on the part of the watchers and guardboats are reported, such as seizing merchandize before it has reached a barrier and declaring it to be smuggled, or stopping goods which have already passed inspection and are provided with the necessary duty receipts. In other cases, heavy extortions are levied upon articles of personal property, or upon merchandize entitled to exemption from duty, whereupon an acknowledgment that nothing has been unduly extorted is demanded; failing consent to which, the cargo is carried off to the head office and there detained. The parties interested are subjected to examination

under torture, and the merchandize, at length, without regard to the fact of duty having been paid or no, is declared to be confiscated, or else, perhaps, is released on payment of a fine of eight-tenths of its value. Abuses of this description are reckoned as third among the causes of popular discontent which it is expedient to remove; the others being the exactions of district Magistrates and judicial malpractices.—For rescript see *Gazette* of January 24th.

Feb. 16th.—(1) A decree, granting Wên Pao-shên, a Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, leave to retire on the ground of ill-health.

(2) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes referring to a decree heretofore received by him respecting the case in which Chan K'i-lun, a cashiered Brigadier General, had beaten one Hu She-li to death, and in which Ch'ên Kwoh-jui, an officer degraded to the rank of captain (*tu sze*), was found to be implicated. Upon this discovery being made, Ch'ên Kwoh-jui was forthwith summoned to appear, and an official was appointed to take his statement. Ch'ên hereupon deposed that he was in no wise concerned in the act of robbery with violence; but he admitted the charge of having taken the official examiner of corpses to his house. Chan K'i-lun farther acknowledged having handed the sum of \$500 to an expectant Colonel named Siao Ch'êng, who was to endeavour to arrange matters for him. Siao Ch'êng, on the other hand, on being examined, declared that the \$500 were given to him by Chan, after his arrest, in part payment of a debt of Tls. 1,500 owing to him since 1863 in connection with some transations in contraband salt. In order that the case may be fully investigated, it is now prayed that both Ch'ên Kwoh-jui and Siao Ch'êng may be provisionally stripped of their rank by Decree, in order that they may be arraigned for trial.—Decree accordingly.

Feb. 17th. — (Court Circular.) His Majesty will proceed at 6.30 a.m. to-morrow to the Ta Kao Tien, to offer incense.

(1) A Decree. Let Wêng T'ung-ho succeed to the vacant post of Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Superintendent of the Mint. Let P'an Tsu-yin 潘祖蔭 act provisionally in the post of Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, as successor to Wêng T'ung-ho.

(2) A Decree, in obedience to a mandate of the Empresses Regent, who observe that at the present moment, when the

triennial period of scrutiny into the character of the members of the civil service in the Capital is at hand, it is fitting that marks of special approbation be bestowed upon those who have most distinguished themselves in the service of the State. In a report now presented by the Board of Civil Office, it is shewn that the Prince of Kung has stood foremost to render aid in the counsels of government, and has devoted his whole soul to the task of his ministerial office. For the conspicuous merit of his prolonged and unintermitting services, the Imperial Clan Court is directed to propose a distinguished form of reward. The other members of the Grand Council, viz., Wên-siang, Pao-yün, Shên Kwei-fên, and Li Hung-tsao, with Li Hung-chang and Tso Tsung-t'ang, the Grand Secretaries whose exertions are respectively devoted to the domain in proximity to the Capital and to the region of the frontier territories, are at the same time named for the proposal of special distinctions by the Board of Civil Office.

(3) Li Ho-nien, Governor-General of Min-Chêh, memorializes reporting the arrival at Foochow of a Liu-chiuan junk, forwarded from Chêhkiang after having been put in repair by the provincial authorities there. The junk had drifted on shore in the P'ing-yang district in July last. (See *Gazette* of Nov. 7th, 1875.) The eleven distressed mariners on board will be supplied at Foochow with the regulation daily allowance of one pint of rice, and six cash for the purchase of vegetables and salt, and sent back to their own country under proper pilotage. (N. B.—Under the new system of publishing “abstracts of memorials, this document was noted, with the Imperial rescript appended, so far back as the 4th January.)

(4) The Censor Wu Hung-ên memorializes praying that the regulation which imposes the periodical delivery of homilies extracted from the Exposition of the Sacred Edict, drawn up and circulated in the reign of Yung-chêng, may be revived, as a means of restoring the tone of popular morality.—For rescript in reply see *Gazette* of Feb. 1st.)

Feb. 18th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with the first portion of the memorial presented by the Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Special Council, on the proposals laid before the Throne by Ts'ung-shih for the reorganization of the civil service in Fêng-t'ien. See *Gazette* of Jan. 19th.

Feb. 19th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Wu T'ang, Governor-

General of Szech'wan, who has impeached a district magistrate for abuse of his judicial authority. A respectable woman named Sung T'ang-she was impelled by his unjustifiable decision to commit suicide. The offender is dismissed the public service, never to be allowed to reënter it. A monument in honour of the deceased lady is further decreed.

(2) A Decree. Let Kia Hu 賈瑚 succeed to the vacant post of Prefect of Têng-chow Fu in Shantung.

(3) Continuation of the memorial relating to reorganization of the civil service in Fêng-t'ien.

Feb. 19th.—(1) A decree awarding a memorial board to the temple Kwan Yin the Deliverer (Avalôkitesvara), at Haining Chow in Chêhkiang, on the application of the Governor of the province. The temple has lately been repaired; and it is represented that the coast embankment works are under the special protection of the deity worshipped there.

(2) Third portion of the memorial relating to the reorganization of the civil service in Fêng-t'ien.

Feb. 20th.—Fourth portion of the above memorial.

Feb. 21st.—A Decree. Let Liu Ch'wan-k'i 劉傳祺 be transferred to fill the post of Taotai of the Hwei-Ning-Ch'e-T'ai Intendancy in Anhwei; and let Li Yung 李榮 be transferred to succeed him in the post of Grain Intendant of Kiangsu and Anhwei.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with the concluding portion of the Special Council's report on the reorganization of the civil service in Fêng-t'ien.

Feb. 23rd.—(1) A decree cashiering two District Magistrates and a Sub-Department Magistrate, who have been denounced for inefficiency by the Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang.

(2) Chih-kang, Resident at Urga (formerly one of the Burlingame “co-envoys”), memorializes representing the sufferings he has to endure from cold, and requesting sanction to his taking a congé of two months. When stationed some few years ago at Uliasutai, he was compelled to ask leave to resign his post, owing to attacks of neuralgia brought on by the cold, and since his recent appointment to his present position he has again been a martyr to similar sufferings. Although he has tried living in a felt tent instead of in an ordinary house, he finds it impossible to keep warm since the cold weather set in, and his sufferings have been so severe that

he is obliged to take care of himself for a couple of months.

(3) The Assistant Grand Secretary Ying-kwei and three other high officials unite in memorializing to request a mark of Imperial approbation on behalf of the lately-deceased stepmother of Yung-luh, Vice-President of the Board of War and Lieutenant-General of the Gendarmerie. The deceased lady became the second wife of Chang-show, at that time Brigadier-General of Liang-chow in Kansuh, when Yung-luh was but five years old, and she thenceforward nurtured him as though he had been her own child. In 1841, Chang-show (having been degraded to a lieutenant-colonelcy) proceeded with his family and his mother to Fuhkien, and in passing through Chehkiang, at the moment when the "sea-mists" were unquiet, he volunteered for service in the field. His family was left at Hangchow, where his mother fell ill, and upon this his wife, the lady now deceased, cut flesh from her arm to mix with the potion administered, and the sickness suddenly abated. Her subsequent conduct throughout life was on a par with this act of self-devotion; and after her decease, the scar upon her arm was seen with feelings of reverent admiration by those of her household.—For rescript see *Gazette* of Feb. 3rd.

Feb. 24th.—(1) A decree referring to the continued drought, which is lamented in the interest of agriculture, and ordaining that supplications for rain be offered up on the 27th inst., when his Majesty will proceed in person to the Ta Kao Tien, and incense is to be offered at the other State Temples by a number of the Princes.

(2) A decree conferring honours and promotions upon a number of the military officials of Szech'wan, who are reported by the Governor-General Wu T'ang as having distinguished themselves in suppressing an outbreak of 蠻匪 Man banditti.

(3) First portion of a memorial by the Prince of Kung, as head of a special Council to whom the proposals submitted by Shên Pao-chêng and the authorities of Fuhkien for the improvement of the civil administration in Formosa were referred by Decree in August last. In this report, the gradual growth of population and of commercial interests in the island, since the period of its first annexation 收入

版圖 in the reign of K'ang Hi, and the successive demarcations of official districts, are described; and the rise of Tamsui and Kelung to become bustling marts of foreign trade is noticed among the

changes which now call for an augmentation of the official staff. As regards Kelung, although the country adjacent to this port does not suffice, after other arrangements have been made, for the area of a separate district, yet, since the port was opened to trade, it has become a place of general resort, and now that coal mining is on the point of being officially introduced, a large influx of population may be expected, whilst at the same time manifold questions of naval defence and judicial administration will also present themselves. It is therefore proposed to station an assistant sub-Prefect there, abolishing to this end the assistant sub-Prefectship of Komalan.

Feb. 25th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a continuation of the foregoing memorial. The reërrangement of the military commands in Formosa is discussed, and the liability of the island, with its coastline of upwards of 300 miles in extent, to a hostile landing at any point, is remarked upon. The Brigadier-General in command of the forces is to be stationed henceforward at Anp'ing instead of residing at T'ai-wan-fu, and the "marine" troops are to be converted into land forces. The eight native cruisers, which are all that remain of the old establishment, are to be disposed of; and the protection of the coast to be confided to the steamships of the Foochow Arsenal.

Feb. 26th.—(Court Circular.) His Majesty will proceed at 6.30 a.m., to-morrow, to offer incense at the Ta Kao Tien.

Continuation of the memorial on Formosa. The arrangements relating to the literary examinations are dealt with.—For rescript assenting to the proposals approved and submitted, see *Gazette* of Jan. 18th.

Feb. 27th.—The Governor of Chehkiang reports the number of aged candidates at the last year's examinations, on whose behalf it is solicited that honorary degrees be conferred as an act of grace. Two candidates are reported as above the age of ninety, and seven above eighty years of age.

Feb. 28th.—(1) Among the "abstracts of memorials," notice is taken of a report from the Governor of Kwangtung, announcing the transmission of copper from Yünnan. (See *Gazette* of June 29th, 1875.)

(2) The Governor of Hunan reports the number of aged candidates at the last examinations, on whose behalf honorary degrees are solicited. Three are reported as above the age of ninety, and thirty-eight above the age of eighty.

(3) The Governor of Shansi reports three candidates above the age of ninety and seven above that of eighty, at the last year's examination.

Feb. 29th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, with reference to an application he had previously made for the bestowal in perpetuity of ten additional degrees to be competed for at the provincial examinations in Kansuh, as a reward for the patriotic contributions raised among the people toward the military requirements of the Government for the suppression of the Mahomedan rebellion. The application was at first negatived; but as it has now been repeated, with the statement that the amount raised in the manner above mentioned was upwards of fifty millions of Taels, sanction is at length granted to the request.

(2) The acting Governor of Fuhkien reports two candidates above the age of ninety, seven above eighty, and three on the verge of accomplishing their eightieth year, at the last provincial examinations, for whom honorary degrees are solicited.

March 1st.—(1) A decree with reference to the minor officials and official writers employed in the Government departments at Peking, who have lately undergone the triennial "scrutiny." Those upon whom favourable reports have been made, are awarded official promotion to the grades of assistant Magistrate, etc.

(2) A memorial from Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, observing that the financial needs of the province, for the work of reorganization, both civil and military, and for frontier defence, are extremely great, and that of the subsidy due to Yünnan from the province of Chehkiang, no less than Taels 600,000 are in arrears; whilst of the amount lately fixed as payable annually by the same province toward the military chest of Yünnan, viz., Tls. 400,000, not a single *cash* has been received. Kiangsu, moreover, still owes Tls. 49,000 on account of the subsidy due from that province; and the Governor has consequently made arrangements for commissioning an expectant Prefect named Li Chên-yü to represent his government in the two provinces abovenamed, for the purpose of urging on the despatch of supplies. Other officials are similarly employed in Szech'wan and Hupeh, as substitutes for agents previously appointed.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang, Shên Pao-chêng, memorializes representing that by a decree issued in April last, the late acting Governor-General, Liu Kw'ên-yih, was ordered to undertake

the triennial inspection of the military forces of the provinces under his jurisdiction, which, however, owing to his having been occupied successively in an inspection of the fortifications and of the Canal works, and subsequently by the literary examinations, he was unable to carry into effect before handing over the seals of office. Sanction is now requested to the postponement of the inspection until the spring of this year.

Mar. 2nd.—(1) Liu Ch'ang-yao, Governor of Kwangsi, memorializes submitting the arrangements decided upon in connection with the establishment of a new District and independent sub-Prefecture, as proposed in the course of last year. (See *Gazette* of July 11th, 1875.) The aborigines forming the population of the *P'u Tien Chow* 土田州 department, who have hitherto been under the rule of an hereditary Magistrate of the name of Ts'ên, had petitioned the Governor representing that the succession to the magistracy had become extinct in the direct line, and that the entire body of the population was exposed to great sufferings in consequence of the disputes that had arisen hereupon among the collateral claimants of the office. They therefore entreated that they might be placed on an equal footing with the ordinary subjects of the Empire. Sanction to the request having been given, it is now proposed to convert the tract of country in question into a District, under the name of En-lung Hien 恩隆縣, and at the same time to erect into an independent sub-Prefecture the adjacent sub-department of Pêh-sêh, and to convert the assistant Magistracy of Fêng-i into a separate department. Particulars as to annual land revenue and the staff of officials required are further given.

March 3rd.—(1) A Decree. Let Li Ming-hwei 李明惠 succeed to the vacant post of Brigadier-General of the Lin-Yüan command in Yünnan.

(2) Li Hung-chang, in a postscript memorial, represents that Sergeant Ma Kw'ei, of the Taku garrison brigade, has been advanced, by successive brevets, to the rank of Colonel, and for his services rendered last year in command of the drilled force which was sent to operate against the banditti in Manchuria, has lately been further honoured with a brevet as General. It is requested hereupon that he be allowed to vacate his substantive rank of sergeant.—Sanctioned by rescript published in *Gazette* of January 13th. (N.B.—The present case illustrates the

utility of the system of publishing "abstracts of memorials," with rescripts appended, which has lately been introduced. Publication of the Imperial reply to applications of this kind is greatly accelerated).

(3) 'Ts'ên Yü ying, Governor of Yünnan, memorializes, recommending Colonel Twan Jui-mei as an officer qualified in all respects to act as Brigadier General of the T'êng-yüeh (Momein) command, which has been vacated through the summoning to Yünnan Fu of the late acting incumbent, Tsiang Tsung-han for trial. — Sanctioned by rescript published in *Gazette* of January 10th.

March 4th.—(Court Circular.) Kwoh Sung-tao had audience.

(1) A decree referring to the triennial military inspections which should be held in the course of the present year in the provinces of Hupeh, Hunan, Yünnan, and Kweichow. In the first and third the duty is to be performed by the Governor-General; in the second and fourth, by the Governor of the province.

(2) The Governor-General and acting Governor at Foochow memorialize proposing an exchange of officials, in order to meet the requirements of the post of Prefect of T'ai-wan Fu. In addition to the other circumstances which render this an office of special difficulty, the international relations which have arisen since the opening of Formosa to foreign trade, and the recent extension of territorial authority over the aboriginal tribes, add considerably to the onerous nature of its duties. The present Prefect, Chow Mow-ki, is an officer well fitted in respect of age and attention to his duty for the post in question; but his health has failed from the effects of climate; and it is proposed that he should exchange appointments with the Prefect of Fuhning Fu on the mainland. The officer whom it is proposed to move to Formosa is a native of Chihli, named Chang Mêng-yüan, who was promoted from the rank of sub-Prefect in consequence of services rendered in connection with foreign affairs. He is in the prime of life, a man of capacity and business like habits, and thoroughly versed in all questions relating to the coast population. Sanction to the transfer is accordingly solicited, although it conflicts, in a slight degree, with the established regulations.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office for decision.

(3) The Governor-General of Fuhkien, Li Ho-nien, presents the following supplementary memorial. In a previous memorial, your servant has already represented

the facts concerning the expectant Prefect Ting Kia-wei 丁嘉緯, who had acted in flagrant disregard of duty in arrangements connected with the electric telegraph; and upon this your Majesty's pleasure was signified that further enquiry should be made to ascertain whether the official in question were chargeable with other shortcomings, in which case he was to be stringently denounced to the Throne. On receipt of this decree, it has to be stated that the official in question had been stationed for a number of years in Fuhkien, and had risen from the grade of assistant magistrate to that of Prefect. Whilst holding office as Prefect of Foochow he was impeached by the then Governor-General Wu T'ang, for habitual sycophancy and obsequiousness, whereupon a rescript was issued stripping him of his rank and ordering him to return to his native place. At a subsequent period the late Governor-General, Ying-kwei, obtained sanction to his being brought back to Fuhkien, for the purpose of undertaking duties connected with the provincial office of foreign affairs. He was restored to his former rank, and placed on the official establishment of the province. Having much experience in the administration of Foreign Affairs, he was placed specially in charge of the arrangements connected with a telegraphic line lately undertaken; and it is needless to observe, hereupon, that it behoved him to exert the most conscientious efforts in the earnest accomplishment of his duty. Instead of acting thus, however, he simply strove to patch up a compromise, shewing himself to be at once timid, weak, and incapable. At the outset he acted with a want of discretion which entailed unfortunately consequences, in heedlessly concluding an agreement; and at a subsequent period he stirred up a controversy and gave rise to difficulties by circulating false reports. Although no positive proof of his having acted from personally dishonest motives is forthcoming, yet it is nevertheless certain that his designs would not endure the test of scrutiny. To allow so unprincipled an official as this to remain in Fuhkien would not alone be unattended with the slightest advantage, but it would also lead, there is reason to fear, to fresh embarrassments. The case is one which seriously concerns the international relations of the Government, and it is your servant's duty to lay the present impeachment, based upon the facts of the case, before the Throne. He solicits a rescript once more cashiering the

expectant Prefect Ting Kia-wei, and compelling him to return without delay to his native place, with the proviso that he be not allowed to come forward as a volunteer for service with any corps of the army, in order that a signal punishment may be inflicted and the discipline of the public service be asserted. —To the foregoing memorial the Grand Council has received a receipt affirming the sentence applied for. (N.B.—The foregoing document contains the first mention of the Electric Telegraph which has appeared in the *Peking Gazette*.)

March 5th.—(1) A decree deploring again the continued drought, which, notwithstanding that one fall of snow has been vouchsafed, after repeated supplications, is still most injuriously felt. His Majesty will proceed again on the 8th instant, to make supplication at the Ta Kao Tien, and different princes are named to offer incense at the same time at other Temples.

(2) The Censor Liu Kwoh-kwang memorializes on behalf of the memory of four hundred and fifty-eight women of different districts in his own native province, Hupeh, who perished nobly during the Taiping rebellion, either through falling victims to slaughter or by suicide in order to preserve their honour. The facts in each case are well established, and the Censor appends a statement of particulars in detail, entreating that sanction be given to the erection of a memorial temple in honour of the deceased, at the expense of their surviving relatives.—Sanctioned by previous rescript.

March 6th.—(1) A Decree. The Princess-consort of the Prince of Jui-min (a grandson of the Emperor Kia King) having departed this life, let She Tsêng, Comptroller of the Household, attend to all the needful arrangements. Let the obsequies be conducted by the officers of Government, on the scale allotted to the dignity of a Princess of the second rank.

(2) The Governor of Shantung memorializes begging that his name be handed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty, in consequence of the discovery of a clerical error in a memorial submitted to the Throne, which he had failed to detect when transmitting the document. On submitting a statement concerning a certain Major Chang She-chung, he had received a rescript in reply, granting the application made, but pointing out that the officer's name had been written in two different ways in the memorial. The Governor was directed to have the mistake rectified. Overwhelmed with trepidation when, kneeling, the Governor had perused this

rescript, he has discovered that the character She 仕 forming part of the officer's name, was in one passage of his memorial wrongly transcribed as Jên 任. For his own negligence in failing to detect the error he submits himself for punishment.—Rescript: In this case let notice on the part of the Board be substituted, as a special grace, for other proceedings.

(3) Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor of Shêngking, memorializes with reference to the body of drilled troops, consisting of picked men of the Manchu soldiery, who have been stationed at Newchwang (Muh Kow Ying), since the establishment of an Intendancy there in 1865, on account of the port being open to foreign trade. A modification of the rule affecting the promotion of the superior officers is recommended.

(4) Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, memorializes reporting the completion of a temple erected in honour of the officers and men who fell whilst engaged in the task of subduing the Mahomedan revolt. He represents that during the 18 years which have elapsed since he first entered the province in 1856 to assist in the operations against the insurgents, he has fought at the head of the Yünnan and Kwangsi braves, and has successively recaptured more than fifty walled cities. Under the favour of the Celestial Majesty, he has enjoyed the good fortune of achieving a small measure (lit. "an inch") of success. Steps having heretofore been taken for the erection of a temple in honour of the memory of the fallen, it has now to be reported that the list of those who either fell in battle or died from the effects of unhealthy climate, is as follows: Civilian functionaries, from the rank of Taotai downwards, 33; military officers, from the rank of Colonel downwards, 609; ascertained loss of rank and file, 36,282. This last-named total is that of the men of whose names a list is in existence, gratuities being on record in consequence of the loss of their lives. There are no means of furnishing a return concerning those whose names are not on record. A temple has been erected at a cost of Tls. 5,000, which amount the Governor has devoted to the purpose from his own salary; and sanction to periodical sacrificial ceremonies is now applied for.—Granted by rescript.

March 7th.—(Court Circular.) The Grand Secretary Wên-siang obtained an extension of his congé for one month.

This day's *Gazette* contains no documents of importance.

Mar. 8th.—Wu T'ang, Governor General of Szechwan, denounces the Magistrate of the T'ung-liang district for having indirectly caused the death of a widow named Sung T'ang-she, who has committed suicide under the influence of mortification at an unjust judgment delivered in her case. The woman in question was a widow living as tenant upon some land, originally her own property, which she had sold to a neighbour named Sü Ch'un-t'ing. This man, a titular graduate, had been smitten by her good looks, and offered marriage to her on the footing of a concubine. The woman declined this proposal indignantly, having led a life of chaste devotion to the memory of her husband during the fourteen years that had elapsed since his death, and having vowed to continue a life of widowhood, devoting herself to the bringing-up of her only child, a posthumous son. She heaped torrents of reproaches upon the agent, a carpenter named Wang, who was at first employed to sound her with reference to Sü's wishes; and, when Sü himself approached her, she cut off a lock of her hair in token of her unalterable resolve, threatening to die, if needs be, sooner than yield to his wishes. Her father having lodged a complaint at the magistracy on her behalf, she was summoned, together with the man Sü, for trial, whereupon Sü declared she had been engaged to him for marriage as a concubine, but that the match had been broken off by himself owing to an unfavourable result to the astrological forecast obtained; and he wound up with injurious imputations against her character. The magistrate accepted the lying misrepresentations of the defendant, and dismissed the case; whereupon the plaintiff, on returning to her home, vowed that she would not continue to live a victim to such slanderous charges, and after an ineffectual attempt at drowning herself she committed suicide by cutting her throat with a knife. The magistrate upon this, instead of giving due weight to the virtuous resolution of the deceased woman, allowed himself to be swayed by the calumnious mis-statements of Sü C'hun-t'ing, and inflicted no other penalty than a bambooning upon him. For this dereliction of duty, on appeal being made at the provincial capital, the Governor-General solicits the dismissal of the magistrate from the public service for ever, and proposes further to strip the late defendant of his title as a graduate and to have him placed on trial for the offence of causing the death of the deceased woman through

improper urgency.—Sanctioned by rescript, February 18th.

March 9th.—Hu Jui-lan, Literary Chancellor of the province of Chehkiang, memorializes submitting explanations with reference to the case of Yang Nai-wu and the murder of Koh P'in-lien, on receipt of a despatch from the Board of Punishments communicating to him the decree of the 8th December last. He represents that so much tergiversation has been evinced by all the numerous parties and witnesses to this trial, that doubts have arisen whether Yang Nai-wu has not been unjustly condemned as a *particeps criminis*; but he relies upon the confession and deposition obtained in the first instance from Yang Nai-wu himself and from the apothecary Ts'ien Pao-shêng, to the effect that at a certain time and place arsenic was purchased by the one of the other. Yang Nai-wu has subsequently retracted this statement and pleaded an alibi, whilst the apothecary, after being released on bail, has lately died. Subsidiary witnesses have made, and retracted statements to such an extent that the evidence on record is most contradictory; but of the guilt of Yang Nai-wu the memorialist is nevertheless assured. He prays that either a special High Commissioner be appointed to try the case anew, or else that a high officer be sent with officials from the Board of Punishments, to co-operate with himself in a fresh investigation.—Rescript: Let this memorial be handed to the Board of Punishments, to form part of the record of the case about to be tried.

March 10th.—(1) The Censors in charge of the central division of the Chinese city of Peking memorialize with reference to the body of 250 "drilled" braves who were allotted in 1869 to the service of the Chinese city. On the expiry of the prescribed term of three years, the officials in command are recommended for rewards.

(2) Hu Jui-lan, Literary Chancellor, and Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chehkiang, jointly memorialize laying four rules before the Throne for sanction, with a view to the more effectual repression of turbulent conduct and fraudulent practices on the part of the candidates who assemble for the literary examinations. Of late years, the students have on more than one occasion assumed a domineering tone toward the authorities, and last year, when the proctor of the examination gave orders to repress some disorderly conduct, the students actually went so far as to

assemble in crowds and clamour for the substitution of another proctor.—Rescript handing the proposed rules to the proper Board for consideration.

March 11th.—(1) A decree fixing the time for presentation of the officials who have been placed upon lists for successive appointment to different offices, after passing the triennial "scrutiny" at Peking.

(2) The Governor of Shensi reports one candidate above the age of ninety, and three above eighty, at the last year's literary examinations, on whose behalf honorary degrees are solicited as usual.

(3) The Governor of Hupeh reports the number of aged candidates at the last examinations, on whose behalf honorary degrees are solicited, as follows: twelve of the age of ninety and upwards, and thirteen of the age of eighty and upwards.

March 12th.—No documents of importance.

March 13th.—No documents of importance.

March 14th.—The Governor of Kiangsi reports nine candidates above the age of 90, and twenty-nine above the age of 80, at the last year's examinations, on whose behalf honorary degrees are solicited. The candidates in question are from the province of Anhwei. From the province of Kiangsi, the numbers are four above the age of 90, and thirty above the age of 80.

March 15th.—(1) A decree ordaining renewed supplications for rain, in consequence of the long-continued drought. His Majesty will proceed in person, on the 18th inst., to offer up prayers at the Ta Kao Tien, and a number of the Imperial princes are appointed to offer incense at the other State Temples on the same occasion.

(2) Abstracts of Memorials. Kin Shun, commander-in-chief of the army operating in the direction of Kashgaria, memorializes reporting that a vast number of the camels employed in transporting munitions of war have succumbed to disease, and requesting that a Brigadier-General named Yang Chan-kw'ei be impeached and punished. Rescript: Be it as is proposed. Let the Board take note.

March 16th.—Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, memorializes denouncing the District Magistrate of Kw'ên-ming, at Yünnan-fu, in consequence of the escape from custody of Chu Yün-shên, the Assistant Magistrate who was sentenced, by decree dated the 19th November last, to banishment to the north-west frontier, for having shaved his head before the expiry of the period of mourning for the decease

of the late Emperor. (See also *Gazette* of October 24th, 1875). The decree in question having been received on the 17th January last, orders were given for carrying the Imperial commands into effect; but it has now been reported by the Judicial Commissioner that, on the 12th December last, whilst the prisoner in question was in course of removal from the Magistrate's prison to that of the Judicial Commissioner, he effected his escape. He was in the custody of five policemen, but the party were overtaken by a severe rainstorm whilst walking along an embankment, down which some of the police slipped, whereupon the others went after them to help them out of the mud. Taking advantage of this accident, the prisoner broke his fetters and escaped. The Magistrate, it appears, had been ordered to escort the prisoner in person to his new quarters; and the excuse he alleges of having had other business to attend to at the time, is rejected as insufficient. As requested by the Governor, he is to be awarded a penalty by the proper Board; and active measures are enjoined for the recapture of the escaped convict.

March 17th.—(1) A decree regulating the order of admission of the graduates from the provincial examinations of last autumn, to the examination for the *tsin-sze* decree about to be held at Peking. The graduates of the category of *kü-jên* of last autumn have been grouped, after the preliminary test-examination, in the following classes, viz., first class, 80; second, 384; third, 730. Two individuals who are placed in the fourth class are debarred from the privilege of competing at the forthcoming examination.

(2) The Governor of Honan memorializes advocating the appointment of an official named Liu Ch'êng-chung 劉成忠 as Intendant of the Nan-Ju-Kwang circuit in that province, notwithstanding the exception which has been taken by the Board to the appointment on the ground of some technical irregularity. The peculiar fitness of the officer in question for this particular appointment is dilated upon, and it is observed in connection with the requirements of the post that in the prefecture of Nan-yang Fu questions of an international nature are pending.—Referred by previous rescript to the Board for consideration.

March 18th.—Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh and Shensi, memorializes once more urging the request that ten additional degrees be granted in perpetuity to be competed for at the

triennial examinations in Kansuh, in recognition of the public service rendered by the notables of the province by contributions of funds toward the suppression of the rebellion. The total amount derived from voluntary contributions is upwards of 'Tael 50,000,000. The original application had been for nineteen additional degrees, of which the Board has sanctioned only nine. It is now solicited that the full number be authorized.—Granted by rescript, Feb. 29th.

March 19th.—(1) A decree bestowing a tablet bearing an inscription in the imperial hand, upon the mother of Brigadier General Liu How-ki, a native of Hunan, in reward for the beneficent act of her son in establishing a charitable foundation on behalf of members of his kindred.

(2) A decree admitting to the privilege of competing at the forthcoming examinations, the following *kü-jên* of the various Banner garrisons in the provinces, viz., 4 of the second class, and 6 of the third class, as determined at the recent test-examination.

(3) Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor of Kwangsi, memorializes reporting his inspection of the garrison of the provincial capital, Kwei-lin Fu, on the 29th December last. The performances of the troops are favourably commended.

March 20th.—(1) A decree with reference to the farther batch of *kü-jên* graduates from Peking and the provinces, who have now qualified for entry at the forthcoming triennial competition, by passing the preliminary test-examination. Their numbers are as follows:—Of the first-class, 46; of the second, 130; and of the third, 295. Two individuals, who have been placed in the fourth class, are turned back until the next triennial examination.

(2) A Decree: Let Ting Sze-pin 丁士彬 be transferred to fill the post of Taotai of the Kien-ch'ang Intendancy, in Szech'wan. Let the vacancy thus caused in the Intendancy of the Eastern Circuit in Yünnan be filled by the transfer of Hsü P'ei-shen 許培身 to that post. (N.B.—Ting Sze-pin was appointed Taotai of the Eastern Intendancy in Yünnan only on the 20th November last. He is one of the officers on the staff of the Imperial Commissioner Li Hang-chang. For memorial recommending Hsü P'ei-shên for the Taotai-ship, in Szech'wan, see *Gazette* of Jan. 6th, 1876.)

(3) The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, reports the capture of eleven brigands in the district of Hien Hien,

which is notorious for the degree to which it is infested by banditti. Two of the prisoners died from sickness while in custody; but the remaining nine have been executed by summary process according to regulation.

March 21st.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Kung returned thanks this day for the gift of copies of the Military Record. (The works referred to are the collections of State Papers relating to the Taiping and Nienfei Rebellions, the printing of which, with foreign type, has lately been completed at Peking. The first named work is in 420 volumes, the second in about 300.)

(1) A Decree: Let Sung Ch'un 松椿 succeed to the vacant post of Intendant of the Grain Supply for the provinces of Kiangsu and Anhwei.

(2) Pao-hêng, Financial Commissioner of Fuhkien, and lately acting Governor, memorializes reporting that as the newly appointed Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, has communicated to him a copy of his memorial from which it appears that some time must elapse before he takes office, he has placed the Governor's official seal in the treasury and has resumed his own proper functions, the duties appertaining to the post of Governor continuing to be discharged, for the time being, by the Governor-General.

(3) Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor-General of Shêng-king, memorializes with reference to the payments due according to regulation for the hire of carts impressed on government service. The standing rule provides for a payment of two *tiao* of official *cash* (Peking currency?) per diem for a cart performing the distance of one hundred *li*. This, in provincial small *cash*, is equal to twelve *tiao*. In view of the irregular distances performed last year by the carts taken up for transport purposes, the badness of the roads, the dearness of forage, and the fact that the period was just that of the busiest time for field-work, it is now recommended that a payment of sixteen *tiao*, which is the prevailing rate of hire, may be authorized. From the commencement of this year, the rate of twelve *tiao* will be reverted to.

(4) In a supplementary Memorial Ts'ung-shih observes that, when he solicited last year a grant of Tael 100,000 for the expenses of the campaign undertaken against the brigands of the eastern frontier, he did so in the expectation of having possibly to apply for a farther sum to meet his requirements. He is now, however, able to report that he has

balance in hand. The principle laid down in 1866, when matters relating to this region were under consideration, was that expenditure should be provided for out of the income obtained; and to this principle he undertakes to conform in the work of organization which remains to be accomplished. There has been collected, under the head of ground-rent and timber-duties, a sum of 1,400,000 and odd strings 串 of "small cash," equal at the current rate of exchange to Taels 120,000. This is lodged in the Treasury, to meet the expenses of administration.

March 22nd—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Tun and others returned thanks this day for the gift of copies of the Military Record (See *Gazette* of yesterday.)

(1) The Governor of Kiangsu reports the despatch of the grain-tribute due from that province for Peking for the current year. The entire amount of rice having been collected at Shanghai, 160 junks have been laden, as the first squadron to be despatched, with the following quantities of grain, viz:—

Piculs.

First and second quality rice	307,173
Waste allowance.....	26,013

The junks were despatched on their voyage on the 18th February. In addition to the foregoing, 80,000 piculs of rice, with 6,400 piculs waste allowance, are handed over to C. M. S. N. Company for transport in their vessels to Tientsin. The Superintendent of the arsenal steam gunboats, Wu Ta-t'ing, has been desired to detail a vessel to convoy the squadron.

March 23rd — (Court Circular.)—The Prince of Yü and others returned thanks this day for gifts of copies of the Military Record. (See *Gazette* of yesterday.)

(1) Liu Ch'ang-yeo, newly appointed Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, memorializes returning thanks for his appointment, the decree conferring which, bearing date the 2nd December, 1875, reached him on the 9th January, 1876, communicated in a despatch from the Board of Civil Office. He consequently handed over his seal of office as Governor of Kwangsi to his appointed successor on the 13th January. With reference to his new appointment he enlarges, in the proper strain of humility, on his own unworthiness, especially when reflecting that during upwards of ten years' service in the capacity of Governor-General and Governor, he has been unable to fulfil his duty of atoning for faults in the past by present services. (This with

reference to his dismissal in 1866 from the post of Governor-General of Chihli.) Being now once more charged with the higher office, it behoves him to reflect upon the important interests committed to his care, in provinces only now beginning to recover from the effects of rebellion, and in which, moreover, on the Yünnan frontier, there is at present a question pending which affects foreign relations. As his native place is on the border of Hunan and Kwangsi, through which it is necessary for him to pass on the way either to his new post or to Peking, he submits a request for leave to take one month's *congé* for the purpose of visiting his home and the tombs of his ancestors by the way. He proposes setting out on his journey on the 18th January.—Rescript:—We have already issued commands enjoining upon Liu Ch'ang-yeo that he need not come to Peking. We sanction his taking a *congé* of one month, for the purpose of revisiting his home and the tombs of his ancestors. At the expiry of his *congé* let him proceed without delay to his post.

March 24th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Yen Shu-shên, Governor of Kwangsi, who has reported the prompt suppression of an insurgent rising attempted by the heads of the Ts'ên clan of aborigines (probably in connection with the recent abolition of their feudal privileges—see *Gazette* of 2nd instant.) It is stated that Ts'ên Jun-ts'ing 岑潤青, *chow-p'an* or assistant magistrate of the department of Yang-wan Chow, organized on the tribal footing, had instigated a revolt, and had induced Ts'ên Yao-ts'ing and others of the aboriginal clan (of Miao-tsze descent), in T'ien Chow, to league themselves with him and to raise a local rebellion. They took possession of sundry villages and market-towns; but on Brigadier-General Ta San being despatched at the head of a force to suppress the rising, the leaders, Ts'ên Jun-ts'ing and others, were at once captured, and executed after due examination. Honours are hereupon awarded to the officials who have distinguished themselves in this affair. Acting Brigadier-General Ta San is promoted from the rank of *fu-tsiang* (Colonel) to that of *Tsung-ping* (Brigadier-General), and is placed on the roster for appointment to substantive office. He is also awarded the brevet rank of *ti-tuh* (General.) A number of other promotions are likewise awarded.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes with reference to the successful completion of the great

fortifications of Sin Ch'êng (New City), on the river Peiho, between Taku and Tientsin, which have been executed by the troops constituting the corps designated by the characters *Shêng* 盛, *Jên* 仁, etc., under the command of Brevet-General Chow Shêng-chwan 周盛傳. The present memorial is laid before the Throne in pursuance of the Imperial commands issued in reply to a memorial presented on the 14th January last, soliciting honours and rewards on behalf of the officials who have carried this undertaking into effect. Sanction having been given to the proposals laid before the Throne, General Chow has been called upon for a report, which is to the effect that the soldiery of upwards of twenty *ying* (battalions) of horse and foot, to the number of ten thousand men and upwards, have laboured for close upon three years at this work, and that the labours they have endured are not easily to be distinguished from actual service on the battle field. The entire work has been achieved, moreover, at the expense of the troops themselves, as well as by their own hands. They have consented to submit to reductions in their pay, amounting to a total sum of upwards of Taels 500,000, for the purchase of the materials requisite, in the shape of timber, stone, brick, and lime; and thus, without a single disbursement from the Imperial treasury, or calling upon the people to supply a single labourer, this fortress, of extraordinary size and strength, has been successfully completed. Lists of the officers of all grades on whose behalf rewards are solicited, are appended.

March 25th.—(1) Liu Kw'ên-yih, newly appointed Governor-General of the two Kwang, reports his having arrived at Canton and taken over the seals of office on the 15th January. He is oppressed with a sense of his own incapacity to discharge as he should do the important duties of his post, including not only the control of the civil and military administration and the management of the revenue, but also questions connected with foreign affairs, calling for treatment in accord with the policy of the State. All that he can do is to devote his undivided energies to the fulfilment of the task before him, taking counsel in all things with the two Governors, his colleagues, (in Kwangtung and Kwangsi), with a view to satisfactory results, to the end that tranquillity may prevail in the territory he is to administer, and Chinese and foreigners be at peace together, thus contributing in some slight degree to requiting the bounty, wide and

deep, with which the immense goodness of the sovereign has overwhelmed him.

(2) In a supplementary memorial Liu Kw'ên-yih submits for sanction the names of eight military officers of the province of Kiangsi, where they have served under his own orders for many years, whom he proposes to transfer to Kwangtung for employment, the condition of the military forces there being such, he has learnt, as to enquire a certain degree of active reform. He has commissioned two of the officers in question to bring with them a picked force of fifty men each, from the bodies of irregular troops they have been commanding.

(3) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of the province of Heh-lung-kiang (the Amur) memorializes as follows with reference to the courier-posts of his administration. It has hitherto been customary, in respect of the despatch of memorials to Peking, to send all reports of military movements by the government post starting from the Mow Hing station, 400 li to the south of the provincial capital (Tsitsihar), and thence continued through the provinces of Kirin and Shêng-king to the Shan-Hai-kwan. The entire distance to Peking, by this route, is 3,600 li, and the journey to the capital and back is performed in only 20 days or thereabouts. Reports relating to current matters of administration, on the other hand, are sent by special military couriers, mounted on cavalry horses, who start from the Mongol post-station 120 li west of Tsitsihar, and thence, passing over the steppe, proceed into Chihli by way of the Hi-fêng pass. The distance by this route is close upon 3,000 li, and the journey both ways takes 35 or 36 days. Although it has been customary for the special couriers thus employed to make use of the Mongol station-servants by way of guides, they have, at the same time been obliged to provide all their own travelling expenses, including forage, amounting to a sum of about 100 Taels per journey, more especially of late years, when, owing to the falling off in the condition of the cavalry mounts, they have been obliged to hire horses from stage to stage. A practice consequently came into use of advancing the amount of travelling expenses to the couriers, for which purpose a sum of Tls. 13,000 was set aside in the treasury, the advances being recoverable by stoppages of pay; but although these stoppages were feasible so long as pay was issued in full, it has been impossible to recover the advances made since the pay itself has been so largely cut down as has been the case

for the last 20 years and upwards. The fund in the treasury was consequently exhausted more than ten years ago. Something was done to meet the exigency of the case by reducing the number of couriers to one or two per month; but correspondence within the last year has been more frequently called for, and the cost of transmission does not fall short of Tls. 4,000 to 5,000 per annum. In order to obviate the necessity of advances to the couriers, with the consequence of oppressive calls for refund, it is proposed that the system of special couriers be suspended for the present, and that all correspondence be sent by the southern post-stages. The regular system shall be reverted to when the pay of the troops is once more issued in full, and the steppe can be traversed without obstruction.—Rescript: Let it be as is requested.

March 26th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial by Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, who has requested that the Taotai of the Yen Kien-shao Intendancy be ordered to return without delay to Fuhkien. The Taotai in question, named Wên-ki 文吉, who came to Peking for audience last Autumn on the expiry of his term of office, has not yet returned to the province. The Board of Civil Office is directed to call upon him to return with all promptitude to Fuhkien, after being admitted to audience.

(2) The Governor of Kwangtung reports the number of aged candidates at the last year's examination, on whose behalf honorary degrees are solicited, to be the following:—Above the age of ninety, 12; above the age of eighty, 41. The usual certificates are appended.

March 27th.—(1) A decree ordering a renewed series of sacrifices in propitiation for rain, owing to the long protracted drought. His Majesty will himself proceed on the 29th inst. to offer incense at the Ta Kao Tien. The Prince of Kung will officiate at the Shih Ying Kung, &c., &c.

(2) A decree. P'u Hü 溥煦 (the Prince of Ting 定郡王) memorializes representing that his complaint continues unabated, and requesting permission to resign his official income. It is decreed, as an act of special grace, that the Prince be allowed to retire in the enjoyment of his full income.

(N.B.—The Prince of Ting, who thus retires from the performance of State duties, is a descendant in the fifth degree of the Emperor K'ien Lung, and succeeded to his present title in 1854.)

(3) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, who has solicited that an official on the list of Taotais be stripped of his rank and brought to trial for winking at malpractices on the part of his underlings. It appears that Ow T'ien-min 區天民, an officer of the rank of Taotai, whilst provisionally filling some time ago the post of Grain Comptroller, allowed his clerks to issue a sum of Taels 3,500 and odd, on account of rice-allowance to the troops, which ought properly to have been held subject to stoppage. This was a clear case of imposition. The delinquent is provisionally stripped of his rank and handed over to Ting Jih-ch'ang for a searching enquiry. Due punishment is to be awarded for any offence that may be brought home. (N.B.—The official in question has been for many years at the head of the Foochow *likin* office.)

March 28th.—No documents of importance.

March 29th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Grand Council, asking for rewards on behalf of the officials upon whom the task has devolved of revising the compilation of the Military Records of the Taiping and Nien-fei Rebellions, lately published. A long list of promotions and brevets ensues.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial sorrow and anxiety in consequence of the long-continued drought, notwithstanding repeated supplications. It is most needful, therefore, that thought be taken toward the correction of faults, as a means of inviting the harmony and sweetness of Nature to approach. Bearing in mind to how great an extent the lives of the people are concerned in the administration of the penal laws, commands have repeatedly been given to cause justice to be dispensed without delay; but, as it is to be feared that with the lapse of time it may have come to pass that cases have been allowed to fall into arrear, and suffering to be thus entailed, We now enjoin upon the departments charged with the administration of the penal laws, that they do use active endeavours to dispose of all pending cases, and allow no arrears to accumulate, or prisoners to be detained longer than they should be. All other departments are furthermore commanded to execute their business promptly, and to forbid everything in the shape of illegal exactions and delays.

(3) Abstracts of memorials. Li Han-chang reports that he has caused a Stamp

to be engraved on wood for temporary use. (This is in consequence of his appointment as Governor-General of Szech'wan, whilst discharging the duty of High Commissioner in Yünnan.)

March 30th, (Court Circular) Ki-ho and Ulahits'ungah paid respects on their return from their mission of investiture to Corea. (See *Gazettes* of Nov. 21 and Dec. 9, 1875.)

(1 and 2) Decrees in answer to Memorials from the Censor Wu Hung-ên, who has solicited special concessions in favour of the candidates who have assembled for the impending Examinations. His entreaty that the candidates who have been turned back after failing to pass the test-examinations be nevertheless allowed to enter the present competition, on the ground that the proceedings taken in their case have been irregular, is referred to the Board of Ceremonies for consideration. His second prayer, that the candidates who have arrived in Peking too late for the test-examinations may nevertheless be allowed to enter, on condition of passing the test-examinations subsequently, as was done on the last occasion, is rejected.

(3) The Court of Censorate forwards a renewed appeal lodged by a representative of Lin Tai-she, a lady of official position in Fuhkien, once more entreating justice for the murder of her son by certain high officials in Formosa. She represents that her eldest son, Lin Wên-ch'a, was formerly Acting Commander-in-chief of the provincial forces of Fuhkien, and fell in action against the rebels at Chang-chow. Imperial distinctions were posthumously awarded to him. Her second son, Lin Wên-ming, had been promoted for his military services to the rank of Colonel, when a false charge was trumped up against him, in order to get possession of his property, by a kinsman, named Lin Ying-she, who was himself a rebel. An expectant Prefect named Ling Ting Kwoh endeavoured, on the strength of an official appointment which he held, to extort \$8,000 from appellant's son, and on failing to obtain this sum, he stirred up the Taotai and Brigadier-General of Formosa to further his plans. In March, 1869, he went to see appellant's son, armed with a proclamation dated the 15th February, issued by the Taotai Li Chao-T'ang 黎兆棠, in which the words were used: "Li Wên-ming [is to be] executed as a felon, but those who were compelled to act under him shall be spared." Li Wên-ming seized possession of the document; whereupon Ling Ting-kwoh,

apprehensive of the consequences, combined with Wang Wên-kai, Magistrate of the Chang-hwa district, to murder him, and this was done in the Magistrate's court. They then induced the Taotai and Brigadier to issue a farther proclamation, charging him with treasonable designs. Appellant has made repeated attempts to obtain justice for the murder of her son, but has been kept waiting for upwards of six years for such action on the part of the provincial government as shall unmask the schemes of the guilty confederates. The Governor-General at Foochow has twice rejected as unsatisfactory the explanations returned by the incriminated officials; but, with the assistance of the Prefect of Tai-wan Fu, Chow Mow-k'i, they have been enabled to forge evidence and falsify dates in order to defeat her attempts. Notwithstanding her advanced years,—she is upwards of eighty—she has braved the perils of a voyage across the seas in order to represent her case at Foochow, and she vows that nothing but death shall cause her to desist from her demand for justice.—Referred in the usual manner to the provincial authorities. (N. B.—Li Chao-t'ang, the Taotai under whose eyes the transaction above complained of was perpetrated, is at present Customs' Taotai at Tientsin.)

March 31st.—(1) A decree appointing Tung Sün (President of the Board of Revenue, etc.) as Chief Examiner, and Sang Ch'un-yung (President of the Board of Punishments), Ts'ung-k'i (a Vice-President, father of the late Empress), and Hwang Cho (a Vice-President) Assistant Examiners for the special Examinations, granted in honour of his Majesty's accession, which are about to commence.

Other decrees follow, naming a list of deputy examiners, etc.

(2) A decree issued on presentation being made by the Board of War. Let Chang Yin-ts'ing 張蔭清, son of the deceased General, Chang Kwoh-liang, receive the appointment of junior secretary to a Board—*yüan wai lang*. (N.B.—Chang Kwoh-liang, a Cantonese by birth, was the General in command of the Chinese troops who were overwhelmed by the Taiping rebels near Tan-yang in 1860, before the fall of Soochow. Chang Kwoh-liang was drowned in the ensuing flight; and his son, aged only four or five at the time, was invested with honorary rank at the time in recognition of his father's faithful services.)

(3) A decree expressing the Imperial sorrow on the death of Tsai Ts'ung, a

distant kinsman of the Imperial family, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments.

(4) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Yü Shang-hwa, who has requested that officials who have been cashiered, under sentence of "perpetual exclusion from re-employment" 永不叙用 be expressly forbidden from coming forward as volunteers for service with the army. He represents that of late a practice has grown up of seeking to obtain the withdrawal of such sentences, in reward for services rendered as volunteers on military duty. This is henceforward to be altogether prohibited. The Provincial Governments and Military Commanders throughout the Empire are required to abstain in future from sending forward recommendations of this improper kind.

April 1st.—(1) A decree. Let En-ling be transferred to fill the post of Vice-President of the Board of Punishments. Let Ulahits'ungah succeed to the post of Vice-President of the Board of War.

(2) Let Wu Tsan-ch'êng 吳贊誠, Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, vacate his office, and be placed on the list of expectants of a sub-directorship of a Government department with the button of the third rank, taking up the post of Director-in-Chief of the Naval department in Fuhkien (the Foochow Arsenal.)

(3) Let Ki-ho become Captain General of the Bordered Blue Banner. (N.B.—Ki-ho and Ulahits'ungah, whose appointment to a Board is gazetted this day, are the envoys who have just returned from a mission of investiture in Corea.)

(4) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Minister Superintendent of the Foochow Arsenal, newly-appointed Governor of Fuhkien, memorializes reporting the loss of a Taotai and his son by shipwreck, under the following circumstances:—The deceased officer, a native of Kia-ying Chow, in Kwangtung, named Li Kwang-hi, whilst employed last year on official duty at Yang-chow, was placed in mourning retirement by the death of his mother, and proceeded, consequently, to make arrangements for returning to his native place in charge of the remains. Having heard of the many recent accidents to steamers, he intended travelling by the inland route, but, happening to meet the Governor during his stay at Shanghai last autumn, he was persuaded by him to travel by steamer instead, for the purpose of fulfilling an official mission at Hongkong, where purchases of teak

for the Arsenal were to be made. A nephew of the Taotai has now reported to the Governor that the steamer by which Li Kwang-hi took passage, having struck upon a rock near Namoa Island on the 9th November last, went down almost instantaneously. The ship's company at once took to the boats, and a sailor, who was acquainted with Li Kwang-hi, endeavoured to rescue him, but he, refusing to be saved without his mother's coffin, which he firmly embraced, would not avail himself of the offer of assistance. His son, an expectant deputy-superintendent in the salt department, who had been dragged into a boat, on seeing his father disappear beneath the waves whilst clinging to the coffin, jumped overboard and was likewise drowned. Fourteen other members of the family, or friends and servants of the deceased, lost their lives at the same time. The individual making the report was commanded by his uncle to live and be the bearer of the news, declaring that he, Li Kwang-hi, could not face the world if he survived after losing his mother's remains. He, the messenger, accordingly proceeded in a boat to Swatow, where he employed fishermen to dive for the coffin, which they recovered, but the bodies of those who were drowned have not been rescued from the deep. Ting Jih-ch'ang dwells in terms of high praise on the past services and late devotion of the deceased, and solicits sanction to the erection of a memorial in his honour.—Granted by rescript.

April 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Let Chang Yün-k'ing succeed to the post of Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu.

(2) A decree sanctioning the appointment of Mi-fêng Tsewang Pien-kio-'rh, a counsellor of the fifth rank, as *taipêng* in Uterior Tibet, on the recommendation of Sung Kwei, the Resident at Lassa.

(3) The Board of Ceremonies memorialize upon a report received from the Governor of Hunan, with reference to a charitable foundation established by a Brigadier-General named Liu How-ki, a native of the province, now holding office in Shensi. This officer has represented that in 1871, at the instance of his mother, he set aside certain land-rents, amounting to 80 piculs of grain per annum, beside a sum of Tls. 1,000 in money, to provide a fund on behalf of the expenses incurred by the candidates of his native district at the provincial examinations; and he has now additionally appropriated the sum of Tls. 10,000, in obedience to reiterated commands on his mother's

part, to form a charitable trust for the benefit of the poor and deserving members of his kindred. He has sent an agent to his native place to take steps, in conjunction with the elders of his clan, for the purchase of land and the construction of a granary. The rules he proposes to introduce for the management of the trust are submitted with the request that they may be placed on record. A tablet in the Imperial autograph is besought on behalf of the mother of the officer in question.—Granted by previous rescript.

(4) The Tartar General of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the completion of the forts and soldiers' quarters erected for the defence of Cha-p'u.

April 3rd.—(1) A decree conferring the following appointments:—Ying-kai to become an expectant Judicial Commissioner; Yang Nêng-ko to receive employment as a Taotai; Wên-shêh to become expectant of office in a metropolitan sub-directorship of the fifth class.

(2) Li Han-chang, High Commissioner for an enquiry in Yünnan, memorializes as follows:—On being commanded to proceed on a mission to Yünnan, I had a temporary seal of office engraved on wood, as was reported to the Throne at the time. The wording of this seal set forth my title as Governor-General of Hu-kwang; but as I have now been transferred to the Governor-Generalship of Sze-ch'wan, it is proper that this seal be destroyed. I have accordingly, with due deference, caused a second wooden seal to be engraved, with the following inscription:—"The Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, invested with the button of the first rank, Imperial Commissioner for an enquiry into affairs in Yünnan." This course is requisite in order to reconcile the title in use with actual fact, and to enable documents to be properly stamped and sealed.—Rescript: It is noted.

April 4th.—(1) A Decree. Let Yang Hung-ki succeed to the vacancy in the post of Vice-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu.

(2) The themes given out for prose and poetical compositions at the first stage of the pending examinations are published.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Minister Superintendent of the Northern Ports, and Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung, jointly memorialize reporting the expenditure incurred for repairs to the barracks of the drilled force and the Customs' Jetty at Chefoo, in consequence of the damage done by the storm of August 18th to 20th, 1875. The drilled force at Chefoo, it is represented, was organized in 1868, when a draft from the infantry and artillery

corps at Tientsin was sent down to that port, and employed in the instruction of officers and men detailed for the purpose from the division of Têng-chow Fu. The Customs' Jetty was built in 1871 for the convenience of the public in landing and shipping merchandize under Customs' supervision. Much damage having been done by the storm of last year, repairs have been executed, costing Tls. 235 for the jetty and Tls. 1,346 for the barracks, sanction to the expenditure of which from the Customs' revenue is solicited and granted.

April 5th.—(1) A decree, commanding renewed prayers for rain, in consequence of the protracted drought. All the official shrines, both far and near, are to be resorted to; and his Majesty will himself proceed, on the 8th inst., to the Ta Kao Tien, for the purpose of offering incense.

(2) A decree. Let Wang Kia-pih 王家璧 be transferred to fill the post of Vice-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu; and let Yang Hung-ki take his place as Sub-Director of the Court of Judicature. (See yesterday's *Gazette*.)

(3) The Court of Censorate memorializes, forwarding the appeal of Chow Sieh-she, a woman of Sze-ch'wan, who complains against her husband for repudiating her as his wife, and against the wife he has taken in second marriage for causing the death of her son, with a view to gaining possession of her property.—Referred in the usual manner.

April 6th.—(1) A decree, granting an extension of two months to the time during which the charitable asylums at Peking are to be kept open, with an allowance of 200 piculs of grain and Tls. 400 in silver for their maintenance.

(2) The Governor of Kweichow, Li Pei-king, memorializes with reference to the hardships endured by persons undergoing detention as witnesses connected with criminal trials. He refers to the memorial presented in April last by the Censor Wang Chao-lan, on the excessive mortality occurring in the prison of the Board of Punishments at Peking, with the decree issued thereupon; and proceeds to say that both himself, when heretofore filling the post of Financial Commissioner of the Province, and the Judicial Commissioner, Lin Chao-yüan, had paid attention to the due administration of the criminal laws, in addition to the care it had been incumbent upon them to take for the conduct of military affairs and the organization of civil government. He recalls the fact that, thirty or forty years ago, an essay was written by an

official named T'ang Yung-chung on the principal cruelties entailed upon persons undergoing temporary detention, an abstract of which, eloquently exposing the hardships to which this class of prisoners is exposed, he proceeds to give. Under the head of "parties to a case," he observes, may be classed individuals who are involved in a pending trial, possibly through calumnious accusation, or else as relatives of a murdered person, or merely as witnesses. Although innocent of all crime, they are exposed, even in their native district, to the rough summoning of yamên police, and to oppression on the part of the local headboroughs, so that absolute ruin of their worldly circumstances is scarcely to be avoided. Once sent up for trial to the provincial capital, a distance, it may be, of several hundreds of miles, which involves not only loss of time but also the abandonment of their means of livelihood, they arrive at their destination mere skin and bone, and are lodged in the common prison, without being distinguished in any wise from the convicted criminals confined there. Deprived of all means of providing for their own wants, and removed from the possibility of assistance on the part of their friends, all that they have to subsist upon is the allowance of some tens of *cash* per diem, furnished by subscription on the part of the authorities. Even this pittance is liable to be abated through the avarice and exactions of their jailers and the petty official who superintends the prison. In hot weather, pestilences are engendered amongst them through overcrowding and filth; in winter, their sufferings are aggravated by cold and hunger combined. Continued mortality is the inevitable result, and wrongs are consequently left without redress. The author of the pamphlet quoted from, makes the following statement:—In two districts of Chehkiang, which he had personally visited, the deaths of prisoners, over and above those who were in confinement for actual crime, amounted to 300 or 400 per annum. In the Hwai-ning district in Anhwei, he never entered the Magistrate's yamên without seeing 2 or 3 corpses laid out for the official inquest; and he is of opinion that the mortality there was not less than in Chehkiang. At Pao-ting, in Chihli, he found the prison even more crowded than elsewhere, and the deaths amounting to 500 or 600 per annum. The state of affairs elsewhere may be judged from these examples; and he asserts that ten thousand lives per annum, sacrificed in this manner, would be an inadequate

estimate for the whole Empire. The memorialist adopts as beyond dispute this picture of the prison system of China, remarking, however, that the author of the exposé had proposed no remedy for the evils he denounced. He himself, with the assistance of his chief official subordinates, has now endeavoured to provide a practical means of relief, by establishing at Kwei-yang Fu a separate House of Detention for persons brought up in connection with pending trials. The poverty of the Provincial Exchequer forbids the appropriation of Government funds to this purpose; but by a subscription, headed by himself and joined in by all the heads of department and local authorities, a sum of Taels 5,000 has been collected, which has been placed out at interest to meet the cost of the intended amelioration. Rations are to be provided for the persons undergoing detention, a staff of servants and cooks employed, and paid official inspectors to be provided. The rules drawn up for the management of this undertaking are submitted for approval, and it is besought that a decree may be issued, enjoining steps of a similar nature on all the Provincial Governments.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned consider and report hereupon.

April 7th.—(Court Circular.) The Grand Secretary Wên-siang is granted an extension of his congé for one month.

(1) The themes for the second period of the pending examinations are published.

(2) A decree, referring to a report heretofore received from the Board of Punishments, based upon a memorial presented by Liu Kw'ên-yih, acting Governor-General of the Two Kiang, with reference to the charge of instigation of murder brought against the cashiered Brigadier-General Chan K'i-lun. After a trial, held under the direction of the Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng, sentences upon the culprits arraigned in this case have been submitted for approval. It is established that Hu She-li, the murdered man, who had made repeated demands upon Chan K'i-lun for monies owing, and whose wife had on a certain occasion virulently abused a concubine of Chan Ki-lun's, had been put to death at the latter's instigation. The accused is therefore sentenced to death by strangulation in the ordinary process of law. The ex-Brigadier-General Ch'ên Kwoh-jui, who, although at the time under sentence of rigid surveillance, nevertheless took it upon himself to leave his place of abode, and to interfere with the inquest held on the remains of Hu She-li, the ex-Brigadier-General Liu Fuh-hing, and the

ex-Colonel Siao Ch'êng, are adjudged as equally guilty of misdemeanour. The sentence pronounced upon them is amended from the terms proposed, and they are condemned to transportation to the Amur province, there to be kept under rigid surveillance by the authorities.

April 8th.—No documents of importance.

April 9th.—(1) A decree, expressing the Imperial regrets on receipt of intelligence of the decease of Yen Shu-shên, Governor of Kwangsi.

(2) A Decree. Let T'u Tsung-ying 涂宗瀛 succeed to the vacant post of Governor of Kwangsi, and proceed without delay to take up his appointment. He need not come to Peking for audience. (N.B.—T'u Tsung-ying, some years ago Taotai at Shanghai, was appointed last year to the post of Financial Commissioner of Hunan.)

(3) A Decree. Let King Lien 景廉, President of the Censorate, be admitted as a probationer to the Grand Council.

(4) A decree, ordaining the customary distribution of honours and largesse on the occasion of the 40th birthday of the Senior Empress Dowager (Ts'ze An), which falls on the 30th August next.

(5) A decree, with reference to the foregoing, ordaining that the Palace assize for capital cases shall be held as usual in the autumn of this year, but that execution shall be stayed in those cases in which sentence is pronounced.

April 10th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ts'ung-fuh succeed to the post of Financial Commissioner of Hunan. Let Fu K'ing-i succeed to the post of Judicial Commissioner of the same province.

(2) A decree, in answer to a Memorial by the Censor Yüan Ch'êng-yeh, who has represented that the prevailing drought may be accounted for by the laxity and unprincipled conduct which have flourished of late in official life, for which reason he entreats that all the departments of government be called upon to reform their ways and also that an edict be promulgated calling for advice and exhortation. Upon this the official body throughout the empire is admonished to put forth the most loyal and devoted efforts, to abandon intrigue and selfish manoeuvres, and to adhere to a rule of strict justice in all transactions, whether of reward or punishment.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the execution by *ling-ch'e* (slicing to death) of a criminal who has been found guilty of murdering three

persons, members of one family, in consequence of a dispute about a piece of property.

April 11th.—(Court Circular.) The Minister Ch'unghow took leave on his departure for the Eastern Mausolea, to be present at the commencement of the building works. The *Liu Eh-fu* (King-show, consort of the sixth princess of the Emperor Tao Kwang's family) and his colleagues, took leave on their departure to enter on their turn of duty at the Eastern Mansolea.

(1—4) Decrees, distributing among various high officers the temporary charge of the appointments held by King-show. Peh-yen-na-mo-hu (the Prince of Peh, son of Sangkolinsin) assumes the command of the Imperial equipage department.

April 12th.—No documents of importance.

April 13th.—(1) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Commissioner for the Navy (Foochow Arsenal), memorializes reporting his assumption of office on the 3rd March, as Governor of Fuhkien, in obedience to the Decree which forbade him to decline acceptance of the post. The enfeebled state of his health is his only reason for having hesitated to do this; and he will devote every fraction of his energies to the task now graciously imposed upon him. The state of the civil service in Fuhkien has long been most corrupt, and the dangers of the situation are enhanced by the exhausted state of the finances. He is fully aware of the calumnious charges to be heaped up, and the animosities that are certain to be aroused, by attempts at reform; but it will be his duty to aim at achieving genuine results, regardless of personal ease, or of enmities to be incurred. Acting in accord with the Manchu Commander-in-Chief and the Governor-General, he will use his utmost efforts in the cause, trusting to repay, in some slight measure, the favours with which he has been loaded, if only he can effect a reform of one tenth part of the prevailing viciousness.

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang memorializes exposing the reprehensible conduct of the Taotai Ow T'ien-min, in allowing certain malpractices to take place on the part of his subordinates in respect of the issue of arrears of pay to some of the troops. The soldiery are in possession of commutation warrants for the arrears of their rice allowance, dating from 1866 and 1867, when reductions were made in the force, combined with increase in the rates of pay. All payments on this account have long been stopped, except in a few cases when

officers, with the connivance of the pay-clerks, have managed to obtain certain issues, and even in such instances no more than 4 per cent. has been paid on the amount set forth in the Treasury warrants. It has now been discovered that payment in full was made last year on certain warrants bearing date 1864 and 1865, during the acting incumbency of the Taotai above-named. A total sum of Taels 3,512 has thus been disbursed; and claims are made for similar payments by large numbers of other holders. The inculpated official has borne a good character during the 20 years and upwards he has passed in Fuhkien, but his neglect of duty on this occasion is not to be passed over. It is requested that he may be provisionally stripped of his rank, and held subject to an enquiry into his conduct.—Granted by rescript previously published.

(3) In a postscript Memorial, Ting Jih-ch'ang reports the establishment of an office in his own yamên for the supervision of the judicial business of the various districts, in order to enforce the clearing off of arrears. In the present corrupt condition of the civil service, he represents, the prisons are crowded, subordinate officials assume to themselves illegal powers, the clerks and underlings make gain their sole object, the official body looks upon the people as its allotted victims, and the people regard their governors as foes and robbers. Malefactors, who seek to escape the exactions of the authorities, are in the habit of taking refuge among alien sects (*quære*, in the profession of Christianity, 逃入異端), whereupon the authorities, callous at the spectacle, look impotently on, and heterodoxy, in consequence, flourishes daily more and more. The great desideratum to be supplied is an energetic dispensation of justice, in order that the people may be shielded from the oppression of official underlings, and be led to attend to their avocations in peace.

April 14th.—(Court Circular.) Wu Tsan-ch'êng, the newly appointed Commissioner for the Foochow Arsenal, had audience on his departure for his post.

(Abstracts of Memorials.) On report by the Governor of Shansi that the Director of Instruction of the District of P'u Hien has "defiled the Temple of Confucius and brought accusations against his superior authority," the delinquent is stripped of his rank by rescript.

The Court of Censorate memorialize forwarding an appeal on the part of Chow

Wang-she, a widow of the Hai-fêng district in Shantung, complaining of the murder of her son by certain neighbours, owing to a dispute about some grass that was being mown. The local and provincial authorities have denied redress.—Referred in the usual manner.

April 15th.—(Court Circular.) An additional congé for ten days is granted to Kwoh Sung-tao—the senior envoy designate to Great Britain.

A Decree enjoining renewed prayers for rain. Solemn services are again to be held at all the State Temples in deprecation of the prevailing drought. His Majesty will himself proceed on the 18th instant, to offer incense at the Ta Kao Tien.

April 16th.—(1) A Decree. Li Ho-nien has memorialized Us, beseeching leave to visit Peking for audience. We command him to come to Peking for audience. Let Wên-yih (the Manchu Commander-in-chief at Foochow) take charge as acting Governor-General of Fuhkien and Cheh-kiang.

(2) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal presented by a graduate of the province of Szechwan, complaining against the oppressive conduct of a district Magistrate in connection with certain outstanding accounts.—Referred in the usual manner.

April 17th.—(1) The Prince of Kung, and his colleagues of the Grand Council, memorialize recommending for honours and rewards the officials who have been engaged in the task of reading the proofs and otherwise revising the two official Histories lately published, of the Taiping and Nien-fei Rebellions, forming a total in all of 743 volumes. The officials in question have attended daily in turn at the Yamên of Foreign Affairs (where the printing work has been performed) for the discharge of their duty, which has been effected in a praiseworthy manner.—Rescript already published.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsu reports, in continuation of his former memorial, the despatch of the second squadron of grain-junks for Tientsin, to the number of 100, laden with 188,178 piculs of rice, together with 15,054 piculs by way of waste allowance. The junks set sail on the 5th March from Shanghai. A third detachment of 43 junks has been laden with the remainder of the provincial quota for the year, amounting to 63,088 piculs of rice, with 5,047 piculs waste allowance; and these vessels, after completion of all the due formalities, set sail on the 15th March, to commence their northward voyage with the first favourable wind. Of the 80,000

piculs to be handed over to the C.M.S.N. Company for shipment, 4,000 piculs have already been delivered, and the remainder will be shipped by instalments. The total amount of rice to be delivered by junk is 658,440 piculs, including 20,000 piculs obtained by purchase, over and above the amount collected in kind.

April 18th.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the high authorities of Fuhkien, who have denounced a sub-prefect in Formosa named Hwang Teh-p'ei, for sundry malpractices in collusion with a lieutenant-colonel named Hwang Teh-kwei. Both officials are stripped of their rank and are to be placed on trial.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the despatch of the first instalment of the grain shipments from that province. Total amount to be forwarded is 321,000 piculs and odd, of which 117,100 piculs have now been sent forward, including 30,000 piculs shipped by steamer.

April 19th (1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, who has impeached Wei Pi-wên, Magistrate of the Fuh-ts'ing district, for neglect of duty. It is reported of the accused that, after holding his present office for a year or more, arrears of judicial work in both civil and criminal cases have greatly accumulated in his court, and also that charges have been brought forward respecting individuals who have died whilst unlawfully confined in prison, and of whose cases no report has been made to the superior authorities. The underlings of the said Magistrate are also charged with divers malpractices. As requested by the Governor, the Magistrate is preliminarily stripped of his rank, and is to be held subject to an enquiry into his conduct.

(2) The Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chehkiang reports, in a postscript memorial, that owing to the financial exhaustion occasioned by the expenditure for the defence of Formosa, it has been impossible to provide the subsidies which have been ordered on behalf of the military chest of Kansuh; but that, in order to contribute as far as possible to the urgent requirements of Tso Tsung-t'ang, now that he is about to pass beyond the Wall at the head of his army, a sum of forty thousand Taels has been got together, and has been remitted in mercantile drafts to the commissariat department of the army of the West.

April 20th.—A decree announcing the numbers of the successful candidates at the recent Examinations. They are as follows:—

(From Peking) Manchus.....	9
„ Mongolians	3
„ Chinese Bannermen	6
Province of Chihli	25
„ „ Fêngt'ien	4
„ „ Shantung	23
„ „ Shansi.....	12
„ „ Honan.....	19
„ „ Shensi.....	15
„ „ Kansuh	9
„ „ Kiangsu	26
„ „ Anhwei	18
„ „ Chehkiang	25
„ „ Kiangsi	23
„ „ Hupeh.....	15
„ „ Hunan	15
„ „ Szech'wan	15
„ „ Fuhkien.....	20
Formosa	2
Province of Kwangtung	16
„ „ Kwangsi.....	13
„ „ Yünnan	14
„ „ Kweichow	12
Total.....	339

April 21st.—A Decree. Ts'ên Yü-ying (Governor of Yünnan), being placed in retirement by the death of a parent, let Wên Kêh (at present Financial Commissioner of Szech'wan and acting Governor-General of that Province) succeed to the post of Governor of Yünnan. Pending his arrival at his post, let (the Financial Commissioner of Yünnan) P'an Ting-sin act in his stead.

April 22nd.—(Court Circular.) Ch'ung-how paid his respects on his return from the Eastern Mausolea (see *Gazette* of 11th inst.)

Mu-t'u-shan, Military-Governor of Kirin, memorializes with reference to the suggestions for reform in the civil administration of that province, which were embraced among the subjects discussed by the Council held last year with reference to the affairs of the adjoining province of Shêngking. On receipt of a copy of the Imperial Decree, forwarding the report of the Council, which has been communicated to him by the Military-Governor of Shêngking, he has to observe that although the opinions given by the Council of Ministers are not devoid of value, there are nevertheless circumstances to be taken into account with which they were not fully acquainted. It is his duty to observe that, according to its original constitution, Kirin was peculiarly a country of the Banner force, a recruiting field for the army, in which no civilian authorities were stationed. It has only been since the influx of Chinese immigrants, which began

in the reign of K'ang Hi, that three sub-prefects, two of a higher and one of an inferior degree, have been stationed in the province, together with some minor officials, for the special purpose of adjudicating the questions that may arise between Manchus and Chinese. As the immigrant population has increased in process of time, the lack of a sufficient proportion of officials has made itself injuriously felt, and changes and additions to the staff are decidedly called for. At the same time, the province is not on the same footing as Shêngking in respect of existing civilian jurisdictions, and the proposals that have been advanced on the subject are not in all respects feasible. This is especially the case with regard to the suggested enrolment and control of local trainbands. Former attempts in that direction have only resulted in saddling the country with organized tyranny and brigandage. The memorialist, since he took office, has caused the country to be patrolled by troops, owing to whose exertions upwards of 300 brigands have been captured and executed, with the result of restoring the highroads to a condition of safety, and putting down gambling and other descriptions of evil doing. He approves the suggestion that the sub-prefect of Pehtuna be removed to reside at Ku Yü-shu Hotun (Lone Elm Town), where a hall of study already exists which can be temporarily allotted for the residence of this officer.

April 23rd. (1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Mu-t'u-shan, Military Governor of Kirin, who has confidentially reported in favour of an ex-Taotai, heretofore cashiered, whose exertions he describes as more than ordinary. The individual in question, Shu Che-han, formerly Intendant of Sining in Kansuh (the station at which Mu-t'u-shan until lately resided), was dismissed the public service, under sentence of exclusion from it for ever, on a charge of corruption in extorting fees and presents which was brought against him by a Censor, and authenticated on enquiry by Tso Tsung-t'ang. Mu-t'u-shan himself received orders to command the delinquent to return at once to his home, with a prohibition against his being allowed to remain as a hanger-on with the troops. Notwithstanding this, Mu-t'u-shan has allowed him to proceed to Kirin, and has actually employed him on official duty, in addition to which he has memorialised calling attention to his meritorious services. For such a proceeding, which shews him to be skilled in insidious arts, the Board is

commanded to award the proper penalty to Mu-t'u-shan; who is farther directed to cause the delinquent to return to his home, in obedience to the decree issued in 1873 on the subject.

(2) A Decree. Let Ch'êng Yü 程豫 succeed to the vacant post of Financial Commissioner of Szech'wan. Let Ying-kai 瑛榮 succeed him as Judicial Commissioner of Shansi.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes reporting the quantity of grain prepared for transmission to Peking by the Grand Canal, from the Northern division of Kiangsu. The total quantity is 100,513 piculs, with an extra allowance of 7,035 piculs, and 4,020 piculs by way of waste allowance to the boatmen. The shipment is to be made, according to rule, by three squadrons of junks, each in four divisions. The first squadron commenced its voyage on the 5th February; and the two other squadrons were to follow at intervals, respectively of ten days and one month, from that time.

April 24th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with two appeal cases—one from Kiangsi, relating to the fraudulent imposition of excessive taxation under the head of commutation for the rice-levy, and the other from Honan, complaining of the villany of certain official underlings in a case of murder.—Referred in the usual manner.

April 25th.—(1) A decree, once more deploring the continued absence of rain, and ordaining a renewed series of supplications to be offered up at all the State temples.

(2) A Decree. Kwoh Sung-tao has memorialized Us entreating permission, on the ground of ill-health, to return to his native place on a period of leave. We grant him a congé of one month for the care of his health. He need not return to his native place.

(3) Abstracts of Memorials.—The Governor of Hunan has reported the passage of the Embassy from Burmah through his province, on its return journey.

(4) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes reporting the grounds upon which the ex-Brigadier-General Chan K'i-lun has been found guilty of causing the murder of Hu She-li. For rescript, embodying sentence, see *Gazette* of 7th instant.

April 26th.—Further memorials from Shên Pao-chêng, with reference to the Yangchow murder case, and the participation of Ch'ên Kwoh-jui and others in

the crime. He submits, as the sentence that should be passed on Chên Kwoh-jui, transportation into penal servitude at one of the Mongolian post-stations.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 7th instant.

April 27th.—(1) The acting financial Commissioner of Kwangsi memorializes reporting the decease on the 13th March of Yen Shu-shên, Governor of the province, after little more than two months' tenure of office.

(2) The Governor of Hunan memorializes reporting the magnificent liberality with which a public work has been restored, under the following circumstances. The Prefect of Yoh-chow Fu reports that, at a distance of 10 *li* from that city, a bridge of three arches and a river-dyke and causeway have long existed, greatly to the convenience of public traffic, but, from want of repairs, these structures have been for years in a ruinous condition. A native of the district, Chung K'ien-kün, formerly Comptroller of the Salt Gabelle in Kwangtung, set aside 400 strings of cash to commence the work of repairs, but he died before the undertaking was completed. His son has now further contributed the sum of Taels 7,000 and upward to complete the rebuilding of the dyke, to which he has also added a sum of 810 strings of cash, beside setting aside a piece of land, valued at Taels 2,300, to provide an income for the purpose of periodical repairs. This meritorious conduct being brought to the Sovereign's notice, a brevet title of the third degree of rank is conferred by rescript upon the giver.

April 28th. — (1) The Censor Yüan Ch'êng-yeh memorializes urging reformation in the *morale* of government, under the influence of the warning conveyed by the prevailing drought. He refers with expressions of reverence and gratitude to the decrees that have repeatedly been issued, commanding propitiatory offerings of incense, and to the decree in which the judicial departments have been called upon to dispose of all pending cases without delay; but he proceeds to observe that, notwithstanding these endeavours, worthy though they be to attract the refreshing showers of Heaven, the symptoms of drought are day by day increasingly manifested. Moreover, since the middle of March, the light of the sun has been sickly and faint, the atmosphere has been dust laden and murky, and the price of provisions has been greatly enhanced. Grave cause for anxiety is afforded by these circumstances. The enquiry suggests itself whether it be the truth that the workings of Heaven are

so remote as to lie beyond the influence of even the supremest form of earnest devotion, or whether the warning portents of Heaven be not made manifest because, in the midst of the absolute perfection and beauty of the administrative action of the State, some flaw or deficiency may still exist. With illustrations drawn from the sacred books, the Censor proceeds to demonstrate the connection between natural phenomena and the conduct of human affairs, and he enforces the point of his homily by the observation that [of the two functions of a ruler, "rewarding" and "chastising"] the action of "rewarding" appertains to the element of light (*yang*), whereas rain is a phenomenon belonging to the category of darkness (*yin*.) To adhere exclusively to a course of action subject to the *yang* element, whilst supplicating rain which belongs to the opposite moiety of the cosmic forces, may not, there is reason to fear, be too readily found to accord with the will of Heaven. Bethinking himself of the tender years of his Sovereign's age, the memorialist is reluctant to believe that Supreme Heaven will impose too rigorous a responsibility [upon His Majesty]; but that the heart of Heaven should be moved to wrath if in any instances motives of self-interest prevail with the functionaries of Government, and the sacred perceptions are obscured by their manoeuvres, is no more than what should justly be. It is consequently besought that the thoughts of their Majesties the Empresses Regent and the Emperor may be bestowed upon all that concerns the selection of their functionaries and the discharge of the duties of Government, and that injunctions be issued to all the executive departments, commanding earnest and active obedience to the laws prescribed by the successive Sovereigns of the Imperial lineage. He would have commands issued to sweep away all the demoralization of the later time, and to forbid the policy of compromise—to enforce a stringency of discipline that shall discriminate between the within and the without, (*i.e.*, Peking and the provinces)—and to use wisdom in the administration of the penal laws, in order to conciliate the feelings of the masses. Deceivers and parasites should not be allowed to gain advancement whilst the virtuous and able are passed by. The evildoer should not be suffered to effect his escape from punishment, whilst the innocent are left to groan under undeserved wrong. The rectitude or obliquity of the language held by functionaries of the State, when

interrogated at the Imperial audiences, is sufficient as a test of the uprightness or dishonesty of their minds. The Censor, mindful of his own deficiencies, entreats that advice be called for on all hands, confident that in the abundance of counsel there will be found the wisdom that shall establish the happiness of perfect rule. (For rescript, see *Gazette* of 10th instant.)

(2) The Court of Censorate forwards an appeal lodged by a native of the Ts'ze Chow in Chihli, complaining of the murder of his father by a fellow villager, and of the attempts of the Magistrate's police to screen the offender.—Referred in the usual manner.

April 29th. — (Court Circular.) The Prince Pêh and his colleagues made report on completion of their task as Examiners of the official cadets.

The Financial Commissioner of Cheh-kiang, Lu Ting-hün, paid his respects on his arrival at Peking.

(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Szech'wan, commanding the newly appointed Brigadier-Generals T'ien Tsai-t'ien and Ch'ên Tsi-ts'ing to proceed without delay to their posts in that province.

(2) Yü Luh, Governor of Anhwei, memorializes reporting the issue of a trial in which a military officer has been sentenced for causing death as a consequence of seduction. A young woman named Liu, having been left an orphan, was betrothed by her uncle to one Ch'ên Ming-yang, son of a man named Ch'ên Kia-mu, and was brought up in the family of her affianced husband in anticipation of the period for matrimony. The family had their abode at the district city of Hwai-ning, the father and son being, however, generally absent from home on business. An officer named Tu Chên-yüan, who had been promoted from the ranks to the grade of Colonel, for military services, made the acquaintance of Ch'ên Sü-she, the mother-in-law-to-be of the young woman Liu, by becoming tenant of a house which she had to let, and being thus admitted to the company of the young woman, he accomplished her seduction. Ch'ên Sü-she discovered accidentally the illicit intercourse that was being maintained, and was bribed to connivance. In May, 1875, the young woman was found to be pregnant, and at the recommendation of her mother-in-law, she was removed to a house which was taken for her by Tu Chên-yüan, in order to conceal the result of her misconduct from her affianced husband and his father on their return home. It was given out that she had gone to stay

with her uncle; but on the return of Ch'ên Kia-mu and his son the truth was discovered, and a complaint was lodged against the guilty parties. The faithless woman and her accomplices were taken into custody, and the incidents of the case ascertained on examination. The mother-in-law, overwhelmed with self-reproach for her own share in the transaction, committed suicide in prison, on the 23rd August last, by swallowing a dose of opium she had privily obtained. The young woman Liu gave birth to a child one month after her arrest; and both she and her seducer, who has been already cashiered by a rescript obtained to this effect, have now been tried and sentenced. Several enactments of the Penal Code apply to the case in one or other of its features, especially one ordinance contemplating the suicide of a parent in consequence of the discovery of infidelity on the part of a daughter who has transgressed with his or her connivance. The penalty prescribed in such a case, viz., delivery into the hands of members of one of the Manchu garrisons as a bondservant, is awarded in this instance against the woman Liu. The heaviest penalty, of those provided by the Code, is awarded also against the seducer, whom it is proposed to sentence to transportation to penal servitude on the military frontier.—Rescript, referring the sentences for the decision of the Board of Punishments.

April 30th.—(1) A decree based upon a report from the Board of War on a memorial from Ts'ên Yü-ying, acting Governor-General of Yünnan, respecting certain military posts, the incumbents of which have failed to return on the expiry of their leave of absence. Among these is the Brigadier-Generalship of Momein (T'êng-yüeh), the actual incumbent of which, Yang Shêng-tsung, obtained leave two years ago to visit Peking for audience, instead of doing which or returning to his post he has gone to his native place to reside. Enquiry is to be instituted in his case and he is superseded in his appointment, as well as three other military officers under like circumstances.

(2) A Decree. Let Chang Ts'ung-lung 張從龍 succeed to the post of Brigadier-General of Momein (T'êng-yüeh.) Let T'êng Yeo-têh 鄧有德 succeed to the post of Brigadier-General of Chao-t'ung—both in Yünnan.

(3) A decree sanctioning the application of Hwang Yüh, a Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, for leave to retire

from the service on the ground of ill-health.

(4) Wên Kêh, Financial Commissioner of Szech'wan, reports his assumption of office as acting Governor-General, on the 20th February, in obedience to the Decree of January 15th, which was received by Wu T'ang, the retiring Governor-General, on February 11th.

(5) Wu T'ang, ex-Governor-General of Szech'wan, memorializes reporting his transfer of the seal of office to his acting successor Wên-Kêh. He has occupied his present post since 1868.

May 1st.—(1 and 2.) Decrees cashiering sundry district magistrates in Szech'wan, on impeachment by Wên-kêh, the newly appointed acting Governor-General, for misconduct and peculation.

(3) A decree ordaining the following transfers of officials, in consequence of the retirement of Hwang Yüh from a Vice-Presidency of the Board of Punishments. Yuan Pao-kêng to succeed the outgoing functionary, and to be succeeded in his post of Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, by Yin Chao-yung. Sü T'ung is to take the latter's place as junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office. P'an Tsu-yin is appointed to the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Ceremonies.

(4) A decree. Let Lu Ting-hün (who, as Financial Commissioner of Chehkiang, has come to Peking for audience) be retained at Peking for other employment. Let Wei Yung-kwang succeed to the post of Financial Commissioner of Chehkiang. Let Sieh Ying-hi 謝膺禧 succeed him as Judicial Commissioner of Anhwei.

May 2nd.—(1) Shu-lin, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Hangchow, memorializes reporting the work executed in partial obedience to the demands made upon his department. According to the system introduced some years ago, the *likin* board of Chehkiang should pay over the sum of 120,000 strings of cash per annum, to be converted into silver at prevailing rates of exchange, for the purpose of defraying the expenditure of the Manufactory; but as this amount was found to be insufficient to meet the needs of the department, it was arranged that so much only of the annual indent should be manufactured as could be met with the proceeds of each year's payment from the *likin* Board. An account is now rendered of the quantities of silks and satins that have been yielded during the past year toward fulfilment of the duty incumbent upon the manufactory.

(2) Li Ho-nien, Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chehkiang, memorializes representing that three years have elapsed since he entered upon his present office, and soliciting permission to visit Peking for audience, in conformity with the rule to this effect. Among the circumstances which render his post one of no ordinary difficulty, he refers to the conduct of foreign relations. For rescript, granting the request, see *Gazette* of April 16th.

(3) Sung-kwei, Resident in Tibet, memorializes with reference to a sum of Taels 4,800 which, in conformity with regulation, had been advanced from the Treasury of Szech'wan to his late predecessor Ch'êng-ki, as an outfit toward the expenses entailed for gifts &c. By the usual monthly instalments, the amount of Taels 1,621 had been repaid of this sum, when Ch'êng-ki suddenly died in the summer of 1874; and the provincial government of Szech'wan has pressed for a refund of the outstanding balance, amounting to Taels 3,178. It is entreated that the payment in question be remitted, in consideration of the honourable poverty in which Ch'êng-ki departed this life.—Granted by rescript.

(4) In a postscript memorial, Sung-kwei reports that he has obtained from Peking a copy of the work on the affairs of the Goorkhas, in 32 volumes, which was drawn up by imperial command to record the subjugation, effected in the 55th year of the reign of K'ien Lung, (A.D. 1790), of the barbarians in question. Beside the record of the Nepalese campaign, the work farther contains a complete reproduction of the regulations established with the imperial sanction, for the affairs of Tibet in general; and the Resident has placed it among his official archives to supply the place of the two missing volumes containing the regulations negotiated with reference to Nepal, respecting which his predecessor Ch'êng-ki had memorialized the Throne (see *Gazette* of Aug. 8th, 1874.) The work in question contains all the needful information to the fullest possible extent.

May 3rd.—The Governor of Honan reports the number of aged candidates at last year's Literary Examination, on whose behalf it is solicited that the usual honorary degrees be conferred. Of the age of ninety and upwards there were ten; and of eighty and upwards, fourteen.

May 4th.—(1) The Governor-General, Manchu Commander-in-chief, and Governor of Fuhkien jointly memorialize, denouncing a lieutenant-colonel named Hwang Têh-kwei and his brother a sub-prefect named

Hwang Têh-p'ei, for flagitious conduct in connection with the issue of pay to the soldiery in Formosa, and other transactions. It has been proved that the lieutenant-colonel had upwards of one hundred fewer men in his force than the number for which he drew pay; and that, in concert with his brother, he had trafficked in the sale of badges for military merit, &c., &c. —The two inculpated officials have already been degraded by previous rescript.

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuh-kien, memorializes, observing that the observance of mere routine has become so entirely the order of the day in that province, that the district authorities, in lieu of bestirring themselves actively in dealing with judicial proceedings, whether civil or criminal, as the law requires, have come for the most part to consider misrepresentation and dilatoriness the proofs of real capacity. Abuses of all descriptions consequently flourish, and the innocent are exposed, as the result, to grievous suffering. The case of the Magistrate of the Fuh-ts'ing district is brought forward, as an exceptionally bad one, and the individual denounced is shewn to have kept between 20 and 30 persons illegally in confinement for periods of from one to two years, without in any wise dealing with their cases. Other offences are also charged against him.—For rescript see *Gazette* of April 19th.

May 5th.—(1) A decree, commanding further supplications for rain at all the State Temples.

(2) A decree, sanctioning the application of Hi-k'ai, Assistant-Resident in Tibet, for leave to retire on the ground of ill-health.

(3) The Governor of Kwangtung memorializes, dwelling upon the tendency to indulge in gambling which prevails among the people of that province, and submits a proposal for an enactment of greater severity than the law as it stands at present on the subject. Beside the lotteries (*Wei-sing*) based on the names of the candidates at the literary examinations, which have been prohibited by special decree, the Cantonese are addicted to various games of hazard, all involving most ruinous consequences, of which the following are the chief—(1) The *hwa hwei*, or name lottery. The plan of this consists in publishing a daily list of 36 names, one of which is drawn as the winner. (2) The *peh-ko-piao*, or pigeon lottery. In this system, eighty characters are selected from the thousand character classic, ten of which are drawn as the winners. In order to evade the penalties attaching by

law to these forms of gambling, lotteries are frequently organized under pretext of drawings for land or house property, under designations such as 山標 *shan piao*, 田標 *t'ien piao*, and the like. Beside this, there are quail fights and cricket fights, which are no less injurious in their results than the other forms of gambling. The amendment of the law now submitted entails the penalty of transportation into military servitude on the most remote frontier, upon the principals in any undertaking with a view to gambling in any one of the forms indicated above, with one hundred blows and banishment to be inflicted upon accessories. It is further provided that the same penalties shall be inflicted in the case of any future schemes devised for the purpose of gambling, which may differ in their external features from those now enumerated. Participators in the act of gambling, to be punished as heretofore with three months in the cangue and 100 blows.—Rescript referring the proposal for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

May 6th.—(Court Circular.) The list of successful candidates at the Examinations now concluded was handed in.

No documents of importance.

May 7th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the high provincial authorities of Fuhkien, who have impeached an official for gross peculation. The Prefect and expectant-Taotai Ling Ting-kwoh 凌定國, who was employed to superintend the construction of Fort San Kwên Shên 三鯤身 at An-p'ing in Formosa, is discovered to have made false returns of expenditure to the amount of Taels 14,000. For this peculation, it is ordained that he be at once stripped of his office and subjected to stringent prosecution for the recovery of the money.

(2) A decree appointing Kw'ei Shew 奎綬 to be Prefect of Kien-ch'ang-fu in Kiangsi.

(3) Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, reports the suppression of a rising attempted, with a view to brigandage, by the aborigines dwelling in the eastern Hills of the T'êng-ch'wan department. Two of the ringleaders of the movement and eleven of the minor conspirators having been seized by the troops sent against the insurgent body, and forwarded to the provincial capital, a trial has been held and the guilty parties executed, the leaders by *ling ch'e* (slicing to death) and the remainder by decapitation.

May 8th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Kiangsi presented his respects on his arrival at Peking; and had audience.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Wêng T'ung-tsio, Governor of Hupeh, who has requested the removal from office of certain incapable and superannuated officials. The district Magistrate of Wuch'ang is reported as of mean capacity and unpopular disposition; and the district Magistrate of Hwang-mei as being of indifferent reputation and careless habits. These officers are degraded to minor ranks. Other removals of a similar character are at the same time decreed.

(2) A Decree. Yih-liang 奕梁 (a "duke" of the Imperial lineage, descended from one of the sons of the Emperor K'ang-hi) reports that his complaint continues unabated and requests that he be relieved of his State functions and that his salary be graciously stopped. Let Yih-liang be relieved of his State functions, and let him as a special act of grace, receive one-half his salary as a retiring allowance.

(3) Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, memorializes reporting the steps taken to rebuild and re-organize two colleges in the city of Yünnan Fu, which were destroyed in the insurrectionary troubles. These colleges, intended as places of periodical gathering for the students preparing for the higher examinations, have been rebuilt by means of a special *li-kin* tax imposed on the produce of the provincial salt-wells, and the allowances issued by regulation to the students are provided by a supplementary tax added to the larger amount.

(4) The same functionary reports the steps he has taken to provide a fund from which stated allowances may henceforward be granted to candidates proceeding from Yünnan to compete at the Triennial Examinations at the capital. The remoteness of the province, distant no less than 8,000 *li* from Peking, imposes so heavy an outlay for travelling expenses upon the candidates who go forward, that at the best of times difficulty is felt in providing for the journey; and this is all the more the case at present, owing to the impoverishment consequent upon the long-continued rebellion. The Governor has, therefore, taken the following step:—As a piece of open ground existed in close proximity to his yamên, and to the most flourishing business thoroughfare of the city, the Fu Chao 福照 street, he set aside a portion of his salary in 1874, for the purpose of covering this ground with a row of shops, which

have been built to the number of sixty-three. These shops have been offered to tenants since February 1875, and a committee of management has been organized, to consist of two notables of the city, and three from the East, South, and West of the province, under the inspection of the official directors of instruction. The monthly rental accruing from the shops amounts to Tls. 90, and this income is to be deposited with bankers at an interest of one per cent. per month. The aggregate of principal and interest at the end of each period of three years will amount to Tls. 3,508.2. This will provide for an annual allowance of Tls. 150 to the committee of management, with Tls. 16 as a special allowance for board-day expenses, leaving a triennial balance of Tls. 3,010.2. It is proposed to issue from this fund allowances of Tls. 10 and Tls. 5 respectively to the civil and military candidates proceeding to Peking. The Governor would not make report of so unimportant a matter, involving so small an outlay on his own part, were it not that he thinks it necessary to guard against any future malversation on the part of the notables, by placing the arrangement thus on record.

(5) The Governor of Yünnan farther reports that an officer named Ho Yao-tsêng 和耀曾 has been appointed to act as Brigadier-General at T'êng-yüeh (Momiên), in the place of Twan Jui-mei, the officer previously named for this acting appointment, who has in the meanwhile received his commission from the Board of War as Colonel commandant at Ts'u-hiung.

May 9th.—(Court Circular.) The Grand Secretary Wên-siang has had his congé extended for one month.

(1) A Decree. Shên Pao-chêng, Governor General of the Two Kiang, has memorialized requesting that a Brigadier-General be allowed to retire on the ground of ill-health. Ch'êng Wên-ping, Brigadier-General at Kiukiang, is allowed to retire. Chang Ho-ts'ai 章合才 is appointed his successor.

(2) Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, memorializes reporting the death of his step-mother, which entails the necessity of his retirement from office. He relates that his own mother died a few months after his birth, and he owes the care of his tender infancy to his father and his grandmother, until, at the time he was three years old, his father married a second wife, whose family name was Sieh, and who became in all respects a mother to him. In 1859, after his father's

death, he proceeded at the head of a body of irregulars whom he had organized in his native province of Kwangsi, to assist in the operations then in progress against the rebels in Yünnan. Having risen from the rank of district magistrate to that of Governor, he has been accompanied, throughout all the eventful years of the rebellion, by his stepmother, who never failed to encourage him with patriotic and loyal counsels. In 1872, the south and east of the province being reduced to order, he caused his stepmother to return to Kwangsi, in charge of his brother Ts'ên Yü-k'i 毓琦.

At midnight on the 1st of April he received a letter from his brother Yü-siang 毓祥 announcing the decease of their stepmother, which had taken place on the 23rd of March. Under these circumstances, he is bound by regulation to go into mourning retirement, and he has accordingly handed over the charge of his office, for the time being to the Financial Commissioner, P'an Ting-sin. A third brother of his, Ts'ên Yü-pao, 毓寶, who is in Yünnan, is also bound to retire for the period of mourning. (For rescript, appointing a successor to the Governorship of Yünnan, see *Gazette* of April 21st.)

(3) Mu-t'u-shan, acting Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes representing the valuable public services of an ex-Taotai named Shu Che-han, cashiered some years ago for misconduct whilst under his orders at Ning-hia. This individual has now come from his native province of An-hwei to tender his services, which have been of the most useful character, and he is a man of such exceptional ability that the memorialist, who has known him for nineteen years, during which time his merit has always been most conspicuous, in campaign after campaign, thinks it would be wrong to let such a man be cast away in idleness. He believes that he is acting in perfect conformity with the new regulations on the subject of recommendations, in calling attention to this officer's deserts. (For rescript, handing Mu-t'u-shan to the Board for punishment for the foregoing improper application, see *Gazette* of April 23rd.)

May 10th. (Abstracts of memorials.) The Yamên of Foreign Affairs memorializes handing in the names of certain of its secretaries for whom rewards are asked on account of distinguished services.

No documents of importance.

May 11th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Liu Ping-chang, Governor of Kiangsi, who has requested permission

to retire from his office in order to devote himself to the care of his mother, now upwards of 80 years of age and suffering from impaired eyesight. The application, earnestly worded as it is, is one which it would be becoming to accede to; but the Governor is an official who cannot well be spared from a post in which he has shewn himself active and capable, and he has moreover two brothers upon whom the task of caring for his aged parent may well devolve. It is not necessary, therefore, that he should vacate his office.

(2) A decree admitting to the privilege of competing at the Palace examination for Han-lin degrees, the following graduates who have passed at the examination for the *Küjên* degree lately concluded, viz.: 67 of the first class, 120 of the 2nd class, and 146 of the 3rd class. Ts'ien Sih-kêng, who has been placed in the fourth order of merit, is excluded from the privilege of competing for a Han-lin degree until the next triennial period.

May 12th.—(1) A decree based upon a report from the Board of War, fixing the penalty incurred by Mu-t'u-shan, Military Governor of Kirin, for his improper recommendation of a disgraced official (see *Gazettes* of April 23rd and May 9th.) In conformity with the decision of the Board, Mu-t'u-shan is stripped of his rank.

(2) A decree. Let Ku-ni-yin-pu succeed to the post of Military Governor of the province of Kirin.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting that on the 14th June, 1875, he had received a confidential (unpublished) Decree 寄諭 commanding that means be devised forthwith for supplying to the Household Treasury the amount of Tls. 12,380 which was due as a charge upon the Tientsin Customs' revenue. As there were no available funds to draw this amount from, a sum of Tls. 10,000 was taken from the amount of Tls. 20,000 which had been contributed as an offering on the part of the late Customs' Taotai, Sun Sze-ta, on behalf of the requirements for defence of the coast. The balance of Tls. 2,380 has been subscribed by the present Customs' Taotai, Li Chao-t'ang, and the total amount sent forward to the Household Treasury. It is requested on behalf of Li Chao-t'ang that the dignity of the inferior class of the first order of rank may be conferred on his progenitors for three generations past.—Referred for the decision of the Board.

(4) The Censors in charge of the Central division of the outer city of Peking

memorialize reporting a case of burglary committed upon a bootmaker's shop near the moat outside the great south gate, by a party of desperadoes who climbed over the city wall on the night of the 29th ultimo.

May 13th. — (Court Circular.) Wan Ts'ing-li, the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, paid his respects on his return from the Han-tan district. (N.B.—The object of Wan Ts'ing-li's mission to Han-tan was to bring in the "iron tablet" to which recourse has been had as the last available means of inducing a fall of rain.)

(1) A decree fixing the 21st instant as the date for the Palace examination of the graduates at the recent competition for the *tsin-zse* decree.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial sorrow on receipt of intelligence of the decease of the Prince of Jui (one of the eight hereditary princes of the first order.) A party of the Bodyguard under the Prince of Hwei are commanded to perform a ceremony of funeral libation, and a donation of Tls. 1,000 is awarded from the Household Treasury toward the cost of the obsequies.

(3) A decree making the arrangements with regard to certain Court appointments, contingent upon the decease of the Prince of Jui.

(4) The Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by a native of the Yü-t'ai district in Shantung, who complains of a burglary committed at his home in January last, attended by the murder of his father and his sister-in-law. The district Magistrate, when appealed to, carefully kept out of the way until the gang of brigands who committed the crime chose to move off from the temple where they divided the spoil; and he has taken no step whatever to apprehend the real criminals.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) The Governor of Shantung memorializes reporting that he is about to proceed on a tour of inspection of the troops on the Promontory, and also of a Fort which is in process of construction at Chefoo. He intends setting out on this expedition on the 26th April.

(6) In a supplementary Memorial, the Governor of Shantung reports that, as worship is annually to be offered, on the 18th of the 4th moon, to the Tai Shan mountain, by either the Governor of the province or one of his chief subordinates, he proposes proceeding in person, this year, on the 8th May, to Tai-an Fu, thence to proceed to the mountain and make offering of the incense which has been forwarded from the Imperial Household in charge of a special officer.

May 14th.—No documents of importance.

May 15th.—(1) The Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs memorialize requesting marks of approbation on behalf of eighteen of the secretaries of that department, in consideration of their prompt and efficient services during the last two years, the biennial period fixed by regulation having now expired since the last recommendations were presented. Foreign affairs have increased in multiplicity and importance, it is observed, within the last few years, during which time there have been, for instance, such questions to be dealt with as the proposals for the conclusion or revision of Treaties with different powers, the entrance of Japanese troops into Formosa, the introduction of proposals for a system of maritime defence, discussions with reference to contract emigration, and the murder of the British [subject] Margary, in Yünnan. Lists are appended of the secretaries for whom rewards are solicited.

(2) Wên Kêh, the newly appointed Governor-General of Szech'wan, memorializes with reference to the impending departure of Hu Chung-ho, at present acting *t'i-tuh* of that province, to assume the command-in-chief of the Chinese forces in Yünnan, in conformity with the decree to this effect issued on the 11th February. He bestows a high encomium upon Hu Chung-ho for the ability and courage united in his character, and the services he has rendered since he came, in 1860, at the head of a force of braves from Hunan to assist in suppressing the rebellion then devastating the province of Szech'wan. As he cannot take his departure for his new post, where his presence is much needed, until he be relieved by his appointed successor, and as the latter is unable to leave his present post as Brigadier-General at Ch'ung-k'ing until his successor arrives, it is prayed that T'ien Tsai-t'ien, the officer appointed from Peking to the Ch'ung-k'ing command, may be directed to proceed without delay to take up his appointment.—Rescript accordingly, already published.

May 16th.—(1) A decree based upon a report from the Imperial Clan Court and the Board of Punishments, on conclusion of their investigation into the acts of misconduct alleged against the imperial clansman, a noble of the tenth rank, named Tsai-kwên. (See *Gazette* of Sept. 11th, 1875.) The offence of having claimed as his own certain government land, to the prejudice of the lawful tenant, is fully proved, although no evidence is

forthcoming with respect to alleged acts of violence and the unauthorized holding of a court. The culprit is stripped of his rank, and, as the regulations provide, the penalty which he has incurred of banishment for three years is commuted to one year's imprisonment.

(2) The Military Governor of the Amur province, Fêng Shên, and his colleague T'o-kh-chwan, report the measures taken in connection with the scheme propounded for frontier defence, and request sanction for a supply of horses to be contributed within the province. On the 7th June, 1875, the memorialists received a confidential despatch from the Grand Council, relating to the consultations held on the subject of maritime defence, (see *Gazette* of April 3rd, 1875); and on the 16th of the same month they replied, soliciting sanction to the embodiment of a regular force of 6,000 troops, beside an additional force of Si-Tan 西丹 (reserve? soldiery) to the number of 4,000, making ten thousand men in all. They proposed that for every two Si Tan soldiers one horse should be allowed, and they requested the issue of Taels 24,000 for the purchase of horses, as also of funds for the manufacture of arms. To these propositions the imperial assent was signified. At a later period, 600 horses were reported by the office of the Peking field-force (the *Shên Ki Ying*) as having been put at the disposal of government by the Prince of the Chao-wu-ta Mongols; and these animals may shortly be expected to arrive. The funds which the various provinces, however, were ordered to remit for the purchase of horses have not yet been sent forward in full; and to adhere too rigidly to the regulation and await the arrival of the funds could only prove detrimental to the public service. It is consequently requested that contributions of horses may be solicited in the region of Hulun Pir, where breeding is extensively carried on, and the customary honours be conferred in return upon the contributors. The Tls. 24,000 ordered from the provinces would meanwhile be applied most advantageously to the general requirements of the military chest.—Granted by rescript.

(3) In a farther memorial, the same high functionaries report upon the pay which it is proposed to allot to the new force now to be embodied in pursuance of the recommendations laid before the special Council last year by the Governor of Shantung. The 4,000 Si Tan or reserve troops are to be drilled for two periods of 60 days in each year, during spring and autumn, receiving pay at the rate of 1 mace

per diem, making Taels 12 payable to each man, or Tls. 48,000 in all, beside 5 candareens for dry forage per horse, which, for 2,000 horses, would amount to a sum of Taels 36,000 per annum. It is now urged as a point of great importance that these amounts be paid in full, if the force is to be of any use. The regulation number of troops enrolled in the Amur province is 11,080. Of this number, some 3,500 have been drafted off to active service elsewhere. According to the new arrangement, 6,000 men are to be embodied as a drilled and disciplined force, with a reserve of 4,000, which will bring the army up to its normal strength. Increase in efficiency, however, is only to be obtained by increased expenditure, and to double the existing amount of outlay would necessitate a yearly additional sum of Tls. 270,000. With arrears in the subsidies that should be received from other provinces, amounting now to an aggregate of Taels 1,800,000, it is scarcely to be hoped that the yearly receipts can be increased, except on paper. At present, with exception of the pay and forage of the Si Tan force, which is issued in full, the pay of the regular troops is fixed at Tls. 24 per man per annum, without forage allowance, and this amount of pay is further reduced by a stoppage of 2 mace 6 candareens per Tael, bringing it down to only Tls. 18 and a fraction per annum. It is now requested that the stoppages heretofore enforced may be remitted in future, entailing an additional outlay of Tls. 91,000, which amount with the exception of Tls. 10,000 to be provided locally, the government is besought to find means of providing.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

May 17th.—The following is announced as the list of the highest graduates at the recent examination:—

Chwang-yüan, Tsao Hung-hün, of Shantung.

Pang-yen, Wang Kêng-yung, of Shan-si.

T'an-hwa, Fêng Wên-wei, of Chehkiang.

Ch'wan-lu, Wu Shu-mei, of Shantung.

The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports the fall of one inch and upwards of rain at Peking (on the night of the 15th instant.)

No documents of importance.

May 18th.—(1) A Decree. Let Tsün-K'i 啟俊 succeed to the post of Superintendent of Customs (Hoppo) at Canton.

(2) Yung-ts'üan, Military Governor of Ili, memorializes forwarding supplementary lists of the officers and men whom he has to commend for their services in successful engagements with the (Dungani) rebels in

the neighbourhood of Kurkara Usu, in the autumn of 1874.

May 19th.—(1) A decree referring to the proper Board for consideration and report, a memorial presented by Chang Che-tung, Literary Chancellor of Szech'wan, detailing certain reforms introduced for the suppression of longstanding abuses in the literary examinations in that province, and the punishment inflicted upon graduates for promoting litigious contests.

(2) A decree commanding the Government of Fuhkien to select from among the Prefects throughout their jurisdiction, an officer qualified for the post of Prefect of Foochow; and nominating Liu Kwoh-kwang (at present a Censor at Peking) as successor to the vacancy thus occasioned.

May 20th.—(1) A decree referring to the long-protracted drought, and the continued want of rain, notwithstanding that a slight fall has at length been vouchsafed after repeated supplications. The bounty of the Supreme must once more be reverently entreated; and his Majesty will in consequence proceed in person on the 24th of May to offer incense at the Ta Kao Tien. The Imperial Princes are as usual commanded to repair to the various other State temples, both far and near, to make similar sacrifices.

(2) Sung Kwei, Resident in Tibet, memorializes as follows:—A petition having been received from Nepal requesting information with regard to period for sending tribute, Your slave has informed himself that, according to regulation, the King of Nepal should send a person once every five years to Peking, to make offering of a respectful address and tribute. A mission was due in 1872, with reference to which a Rescript was received from his Majesty, granting exemption on that occasion. Another period of five years will expire in 1877; and as the Rescript of his Majesty (issued after the death of the late Emperor) commanded that a period of 27 months should expire before offerings are laid before the Throne, the proper period will be reached in the 5th moon of next year. On perusal of a translation of the letter received from the King aforesaid, Your slave finds it couched in language reverentially submissive and expressive of the most devoted loyalty. He accordingly makes report thereof for the Imperial information, and, looking upwards, he would ask of the Celestial grace whether permission may be granted to send the tribute offerings at the regular date, or whether there shall be a postponement of the period. On these points, upon which Your slave does not venture to take the

responsibility of decision, he prostrate awaits instructions. He has to add that the King aforesaid makes mention of the birth of a grandson, his first, (or, the child of his eldest son), which he thinks it his duty to report. Your slave has expressed congratulations in reply, and has sent back an Imperial donation of two rolls of embroidered satin, to which he has added on his own account a roll of wide satin, by way of congratulatory largesse, in furtherance of his Sovereign's desire to cherish tenderly the foreigner with a liberality that knows no bounds.—Rescript issued to the Grand Council in reply.—Let the tribute be forwarded at the proper period.

May 21st.—The Manchu Commander-in-chief, the Governor-General, and the Governor of Fuhkien, jointly memorialize reporting the apprehension, trial, and sentence of the leading criminals in a case in which certain foreign traders have been murdered. They have to report that on a communication having been received some time ago by the board of Foreign Relations at Foochow, in which the fact of the master and mate of the German vessel called the *Anna* having been murdered at sea was made known by the officiating Consul, Tai-lan-no, a delegate was at once appointed to proceed with the said Consul on board a gunboat from the Arsenal, to the coast in the neighbourhood of Min-an and Fuh-ning, where, as it happened, a gunboat which the Consul at Amoy had sent out was met with. On the fact being ascertained that the murder had been committed by the Chinese crew, headed by one Yang Si-si, a reward was offered for their apprehension by the Board, and the Magistrates of the Min and Ch'ang-loh districts, acting under instructions, effected the arrest of three of the guilty parties, viz., Yang Si-si, Wêng Chêng-mei, and Yang K'i-sin. Previously to this, moreover, certain villagers of the Hia-p'u district had surrendered a quantity of the cargo, consisting in sugar, which had been lodged with them by Yang Si-si. After a trial held by the Prefect of Foochow, Your servant (the Governor) Ting Jih-ch'ang sent a gunboat with the officials Ch'ên Wei-han and others to scour the coast and to take the direction of the civil and military authorities in pursuit [of the remaining criminals] These officers have now recovered [certain portions of] the property that was carried off, which has been handed to the Board; and the prisoners have been subjected to a further trial before the Judicial Commissioner and the

Prefect of Foochow. These officers have reported that the evidence elicited fully establishes the facts of the case, but that the prisoner Yang Si-si stubbornly refused to confess his guilt. On receipt of the report of this trial, submitted by the Board of Foreign Relations, the high authorities themselves caused the prisoners to be brought before them, and personally examined them in a stringent manner. The facts elicited are as follows:—Yang Si-si, Wêng Chêng-mei, and Yang K'i-sin, are all natives of Foochow. Yang Si-si had for a number of years followed the sea as a sailor on board foreign vessels; and in the autumn of last year he, with the other two prisoners, was on shore at Amoy, unemployed, as they were unable to find security for their character. In September last, the German schooner *Anna* was loading for Tientsin. She was officered by two Europeans, whose names the prisoners did not know. One of them was the master, and the other the mate. There were also two Chinese employed on board, named Cho Li and Ch'ên A-Chu. The vessel took in her cargo of sugar at Amoy, where her former crew of six men had refused to go north in her, owing to the constant maltreatment they had experienced at the hands of the master. These men having taken their discharge, the covetousness of the foreigners led them to engage Yang Si-si, owing to the cheap rate of wages he was willing to accept, as headman of the crew; and he thereupon hired the two remaining prisoners now in custody and three others who are as yet unapprehended, viz., Ch'ên A-Pêh, A K'ing, and A Liang (surnames unknown.) No security was given for these men. The prisoners are ignorant of the amount of cargo taken on board, as the loading was completed by a different gang of men. The vessel sailed on her voyage on the 11th September. The hasty temper of the foreigners again manifested itself in illtreatment of the crew. Wêng Chêng-mei and A Pêh were the men who suffered the hardest blows; and they frequently said to Yang Si-si that they felt inclined to take the foreigners' lives, though it should cost them their own. Yang Si-si himself had also been struck on several occasions, and in the irritation thus occasioned he conceived the design of taking vengeance by murdering the foreigners. He said, thereupon, that whoever was bold enough to strike the first blow should have a reward of one hundred dollars when the deed was done. Ch'ên A-Pêh volunteered to take the lead, and Wêng

Chêng-mei agreed to lend a helping hand. Yang K'i-sin stood by, listening to this conversation, but he took no part in the arrangement of the plot. The vessel continued her voyage, by day and night, the master and the crew taking turns of sleep in rotation, with the exception of Choh Li and Ch'ên A-Chu, who kept no watches at night. At midnight on the 21st September, the vessel was off the Pih-seang Islands, the mate, with Yang K'i-sin, A K'ing, and A Liang, being all sound asleep, and the master keeping watch on deck with Yang Si-si, Wêng Chêng-mei, and Ch'ên A-Pêh. The last-named of the three, taking the master at unawares, stole upon him with an axe, and struck him dead. A K'ing and A Liang were then roused from their sleep, and desired to come and help to despatch the mate. Ch'ên A-Pêh was still armed with the axe, Yang Si-si took an iron mallet, and Wêng Chêng-mei armed himself with a chopper. The two other men each carried a bar of iron in their hands. On entering the mate's cabin they all rushed forward to complete their design, but, owing to the darkness, Wêng Chêng-mei accidentally cut A Liang in the left hand by a misdirected blow. On an exclamation from A Liang, the mate awoke, and getting up in his bed shouted for help, upon which Yang Si-si struck him several blows with his mallet, which finally killed him. Who else may have dealt blows at the murdered man, and what wounds were inflicted, it was impossible to distinguish. Yang K'i-sin was waked up by the shouts, but was ordered by Yang Si-si to hold his tongue; and he assisted Ch'ên A-Pêh and Wêng Chêng-mei in throwing the bodies overboard. On the 23rd September, Yang Si-si, entirely of his own motion, steered the vessel for Pih-seang Island, where she was brought to anchor. Two hundred and fifteen baskets of sugar were got out, and were landed in fishing boats, Yang Si-si falsely stating that the vessel was leaking, and needed repairs, under which pretext he rented some sheds from two fishermen named She Têh-wu and She Ta cho to store the cargo in. The two men A K'ing and A Liang were left to watch the sheds. Before any more cargo could be got out, bad weather came on, and the schooner was driven away from her anchorage, drifting to Si Yang (Spider Island), where she struck on a rock and went to pieces on the 24th September. The crew went off in different directions, whilst Choh Li and Ch'ên A-Chu took passage in a fishing junk to Amoy, where they gave information to the

authorities. The cargo was washed out of the vessel and lost, a portion of it being, however, picked up and sold by the fishermen. The two men left behind at the sheds went off after a time, as Yang Si-si did not return. She Têh-wu and the other fisherman, on their suspicions being aroused, went to report the matter at the yamên of the military post of Pih-seang, and the baskets of sugar were thereupon delivered to the Magistrate of the district on behalf of the proper claimants. The Board of Foreign Relations at Foochow having, by this time, received the Consul's despatch, sent an officer out in search of the culprits, of whom a certain number were successively apprehended, whilst the Magistrate of the Lien-kiang district discovered that a shopkeeper named Tsiang Shang-tsao had bought at a low price 382 baskets of sugar-candy of certain fishermen whose names were unknown. These goods were recovered and restored to the proper claimant. The military authorities also recovered a broken mast at a certain point on the coast, which it was ascertained had been found drifted inshore by a fisherman whilst plying his avocation. The Taotai Ch'ên Wei-han and those with him, moreover, recovered a farther portion of the cargo. As there is no immediate prospect of the arrest of the remaining criminals, the prisoners now in custody have been brought up for trial and sentence. Wêng Chêng-mei and the other prisoner, on being rigorously interrogated, confirm their previous statements; but Yang Si-si confesses to no more than having assisted in throwing the bodies overboard. He denies everything alleged against him as a prime mover and active agent in the crime. As the headman of the crew, however, he was obeyed by all the men, and if he had not himself planned the murders, it is by no means likely that he would have lent a hand in throwing the bodies overboard. The confessions of the other prisoners, moreover, are positive on the subject of his guilt, and he has not been able to shake a syllable of their testimony. The evidence being so perfectly distinct and beyond all shadow of doubt, it is right that sentence be finally pronounced. In this case, inasmuch as the prisoner Yang Si-si, having been hired as a sailor by foreigners, did, in consequence of repeated acts of maltreatment inflicted upon him, wilfully devise a plot for the murder of the two Europeans, his act is unquestionably contrary to law; and, in removing cargo from the vessel after the murder had taken place, he has farther committed

an act not distinguishable from the plunder of ordinary property. Without taking into account the minor offence of casting away the remains of the deceased, he is sentenced to decapitation immediately after confirmation of the judgment, in conformity with the law in such cases made and provided; and as the prime mover in the act of murder committed upon two persons, the additional penalty is entailed of exposure of his head as a public warning. In conformity with the regulations, a rescript is solicited pronouncing the final decision. Wêng Chêng-mei, in sharing in the scheme to commit murder, and in subsequently taking part in the actual murder of the mate, has also committed an offence against the law. In conformity with the statute providing for the case of one who is a participator in a plot to commit murder and an active accessory to the crime, he is sentenced to death by strangulation, execution to ensue after the autumn confirmation of sentences. Yang K'i-sin is proved not to have shared in the plot or in the act of murder; but although cognizant at the time of what was being done, he offered no opposition to the act; and after leaving the neighbourhood he lodged no information of the crime. In a case in which the lives of two Europeans have been taken by murder, it would be an insufficient penalty were he to receive sentence of bastinado under the statute which provides for the case of those who, cognizant of an act of murder, neither offer resistance to its commission nor give information of the crime. The appropriate sentence in his case is that he do suffer, with mitigation by one degree, the penalty provided by the statute relating to an accessory in the second degree to an act of murder, to wit, one hundred blows and transportation to a distance of 3,000 *li*, reduced by mitigation as aforesaid to one hundred blows and banishment for three years to a certain locality to be specified, the corporal punishment being there commuted as the laws provide. The fishermen who allowed the use of their sheds, the shopkeeper who purchased the sugar, and the fisherman who picked up the broken mast, are sentenced, in conformity with the severer clause of the statute against unspecified wrong doing, to the penalty of 80 blows, commuted as the law provides, and thereupon to be discharged from custody. Choh Li and Ch'ên A-Chu, who had no cognizance of the design to murder, and who gave immediate information of the crime, are acquitted of all

blame. The lieutenant in command of the Lo Hu military post, Lin Yü-ch'un by name, is charged in the Consul's despatch with the receipt of a bribe. The proper department has already, on application addressed to it, deprived him of his rank. It is now solicited that he be arraigned for rigorous trial and separately dealt with. Rewards have been offered for the apprehension of the remaining criminals, and orders issued for their arrest. The property recovered has been handed over to the Consul's charge. The bodies of the murdered men, having been thrown overboard, are irrecoverable, and on this head no farther proceedings are necessary. The officials, civil and military, who are chargeable with failure to exert proper vigilance, shall be impeached after completion of the examination of the coast, for the purpose of ascertaining the limits of their respective jurisdictions; and steps shall also hereafter be taken in favour of the officials who have exerted themselves in the case, in order that both punishment and reward may be duly meted out. A copy of the record of the entire case and of the depositions taken, is transmitted to the Board of Punishments, and a communication is addressed to the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, beside the proper communications sent for the information of other departments. This having been done, the present report of the trial and sentence of the criminals guilty of murder upon the high seas is transmitted by a special steamer, the *Tsi An*, which is despatched for the purpose to Tientsin, whence the memorial is to be sent forward by the district Magistrate at the speed of 500 li per day.—To the foregoing Memorial the Grand Council has received a rescript in the following words: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report without delay.

May 22nd.—No documents of importance.

May 23rd.—(1) The high authorities of Fuhkien jointly memorialize impeaching for a gross act of peculation the Prefect and expectant Taotai Ling Ting-kwoh, in connection with the works undertaken for the fortification of the anchorage at An-p'ing in Formosa. An amount of Taels 129,400 in all was issued to the delinquent, out of which he is proved to have embezzled at least the sum of Tls. 14,377, to say nothing of possible "squeezes" that may have been perpetrated in the issue of wages, etc., for which no detailed accounts are forthcoming. The fort was built on the European model, and no fixed limit could consequently be prescribed

beforehand, under circumstances so novel, for the expenditure to be incurred. After commenting upon the villany of the delinquent in this case, it is requested that he be stripped of his rank and prosecuted for the recovery of the amount. It is added that the present memorial is drawn up by the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 7th inst. (N. B.—The Prefect Ling Ting-kwoh is the official who for six years past has been vainly complained against by the mother of a military officer named Lin, whose murder he is accused of conspiring to effect. (See *Gazette* of March 30th.)

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, memorializes exposing the malpractices which he finds to prevail in the administration of justice within his new jurisdiction. There is no more certain source of public demoralization, he points out, than the neglect of their judicial functions on the part of the territorial authorities, leading, as this must do, to extortionate practices indulged in by underlings, and to endless and ruinous delays in the settlement of proceedings. As a consequence of such a state of affairs, the violent and headstrong are driven to swell the ranks of banditti, whilst more artful characters drift into the embraces of alien sects. When formerly occupying the post of Governor of Kiangsu, the memorialist drew up certain rules for the conduct of judicial business, which he issued for the guidance of his subordinates. By these regulations, Magistrates were required to forward monthly reports of their judicial business in civil matters, and to placard at their gateways a board setting forth the names of all prisoners in custody, monthly returns of which were also to be sent in. These rules were subsequently adopted in Chihli by the then Governor-General Tsêng Kwoh-fan, and in Fuhkien by the then Governor Pien Pao-ti. Notwithstanding this, the Governor has found since his accession to office, that the obedience to the rules prescribed which is shewn by the district authorities generally is merely nominal. Their reports are habitually falsified, and teem with mis-statements and suppressions. The state of affairs he has discovered is simply astounding. The Magistrate of the Min district (city of Foochow) has kept back reports of upwards of one hundred civil cases; the Magistrates of the Howkwang and P'u-t'ien districts have each suppressed returns of upwards of two hundred cases, and so forth. As regards prisoners in custody, a similar falsification of the returns is revealed. The names of

ten district Magistrates are recited, who have been deprived of their buttons and called upon to clear off all pending arrears within six months' time, failing which they are to be impeached with a view to severe punishment.

In a supplementary Memorial, the Governor impeaches one Magistrate in particular, lately in charge of the Chang-hwa district, for acts of gross misconduct. As requested, the delinquent is by rescript stripped of his rank and ordered to be placed on trial.

May 24th.—(1) A Decree. Kwoh Sung-tao has memorialized, on the expiry of his congé, stating that he has not yet recovered his health, and again entreating permission to retire to his native place. We command that he be granted a farther congé of two months, and that he need not retire.

(2) The Governor of Chêhkiang reports the despatch of the whole of the grain-tribute for Peking due from that province on account of the collection for the year 1875. The total amount of second-class and superior rice collected in the three prefectures of Hang-chow, Kia-hing, and Hu-chow, was 321,000 and odd piculs, yielding, after sundry local deductions, a total of pls. 313,700 for transmission to the North. This has been shipped in three instalments from Shanghai, the despatch of the first of which, on the 26th February, has already been reported. The second instalment was shipped as follows, viz., by steamer, pls. 32,400; and by junks, 30 in number, pls. 69,800 and odd. The shipment of the third instalment has now also been completed, in the proportion of 39,200 and odd piculs by steamer, and 55,000 and odd piculs by a squadron of 23 junks.

May 25th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Ts'ung-shih, acting Military Governor of Shêngking, who has reported that a notorious criminal named Tai Fa, for a number of years past a fugitive from justice, has at length been tracked by officers appointed for this purpose to the district of Pao-ti (near Peking), and there apprehended. The prisoner in question having been handed over to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with, it is commanded that on completion of his trial he be summarily executed and that his head be sent to Fêng-t'ien to be publicly exposed there as a warning. Rewards are promised for the officers who have exerted themselves in this matter.

(2) The Governor of Kweichow, Li Peiking, memorializes representing the measures he proposes to take toward the

suppression of secret societies. Early in February last, he received a despatch from the Grand Council, communicating the text of a Decree issued on the 16th January, in which reference is made to a memorial heretofore presented by Liu Kw'ên-yih, stating that the secret society known as the Ko Lao Hwei 哥老會, or Elder Brotherhood, has extended its ramifications over the provinces of Hunan, Hupeh, Chêhkiang, Fuhkien, Yünnan, Kweichow, Szech'wan, Shensi, Anhwei, and Kiangsi. The memorialist, pausing to admire the careful forethought with which his Majesty aims at grappling betimes with threatened danger, observes that the secret society of the Ko Lao originated in the ranks of the army, and has now diffused its poison throughout all parts of the Empire. Its endeavours at the outset were directed toward inducing the ignorant peasantry to join its ranks, for the sake of obtaining protection for their persons and property; whilst, at a later stage, the ranks of the society have been enlarged with fearless audacity, and treasonable designs have begun to be entertained. It is impossible to say what limit there shall be to the evil, unless prompt measures of repression be instituted against this ubiquitous organization. Li Hanchang, in a memorial on the subject, has shewn a complete mastery of its details, and the memorialist cites with approval his dictum that it is needless to institute any other rule in the matter beyond that of the immediate infliction of the full penalty of the law upon every offender. It is proposed that the local authorities in Kweichow shall employ the utmost vigilance, and that rewards shall be bestowed on every person who distinguishes himself in effecting the apprehension of a ringleader of the society.

May 26th.—No documents of importance.

May 27th.—(1) A Decree. The Grand Secretary Wên-siang was one who shone by the purity and integrity of his character, no less than by the sedulous devotion of his intellect to the interests of the State. Loyal and stainless, far-seeing and straightforward, he was at once thorough in the earnestness that actuated his conduct and inspired by sentiments of unselfish wisdom. Singled out by the discriminating judgment of his Majesty the Emperor Wên Tsung Hien (Hienfêng), he was honoured by advancement from the ranks of the civil service in the Capital to the position of an Under-Secretary, whilst,

at the same time, he was admitted as a member of the Supreme Council of State. At a later period, their Majesties the Empresses Regent and his Majesty the Emperor Muh Tsung I (T'ung Che) entrusted him with renewed tokens of their confidence. In the fourth year of the reign T'ung Che (1865), when the province of Fêngt'ien was overrun by hordes of mounted banditti, he was specially selected to command the forces sent beyond the Wall for the suppression of these disturbances. To his exertions the region affected was indebted for the restoration of order. Chosen subsequently to occupy a post in the Imperial Chancery, he proved himself in the highest degree a pillar of the State. In all that related to the policy of government or the interests of the people at large, as well as in the conduct of international affairs, he never failed to devote his utmost energies to the work before him, deserving, in absolute truth, the character of one who serves as right hand to his Sovereign. It was only when overtaken by ill-health, the result of protracted exertions, that he entreated leave, on repeated occasions, to resign his office. His sovereign was pleased to grant him periods of relief from duty, causing him to be prescribed for by the Imperial physicians, and bestowing upon him gifts of ginseng, with the desire that he might attend in undisturbed quiet to the needful care of his health. Enquiries, also, were constantly made concerning his state at the audiences of the Grand Council. In the midst of hopes that his life might be prolonged to an advanced old age, and that for many years he might be spared in the enjoyment of the Imperial favour, We have now been overwhelmed with the profoundest sorrow on learning that he has passed away. We command that a Dhâranî pall be awarded for his obsequies, and we appoint the Beileh Tsai Ch'êng (the eldest son of the Prince of Kung) to proceed immediately at the head of the ten officers of Our bodyguard to offer a funereal libation before his remains. As a mark of special favour, let a title of canonization be added to his name; let posthumous advancement to the dignity of Chief Minister of the Empire be accorded; and, with the posthumous honours due to the rank of Grand Secretary, let his name be enrolled among those to whom sacrifices are offered in the Temple of the Wise and Good. We grant from the Treasury of the Household a donation of three thousand ounces of silver, and we bestow upon him the hereditary rank of *K'i-tu-yü* in the order of nobility.

Let his son, Hi Che, after fulfilling the prescribed period of one hundred days of mourning, succeed to the title. All official penalties recorded against his name in the course of his career are hereby remitted. For the awards to which he is posthumously entitled, let the department concerned examine the regulations and lay a report before Us. When the coffin with his remains shall be in process of transportation to his native place, let all officials along the line of journey attend to whatever arrangements may be necessary. On its arrival at the headquarters of his Banner, let Ts'ung-shih (the Military Governor at Moukden) repair to its resting-place and conduct a sacrificial service before it. This We ordain, in manifestation of the earnestness with which We cherish the memory of Our departed servant.

May 28th.—(1) The Governor of Kiangsi, Liu Ping-chang, memorializes asking leave to retire from the public service in order to devote himself to the care of his mother, who is upwards of 80 years of age.—For rescript refusing the request, see *Gazette* of 11th instant.

(2) The acting Governor of Kwangsi reports the further measures taken for the complete suppression of the recent insurgent movement among the Miaotsze of the Ts'ên clan. In obedience to instructions received by decree, the villages of the insurgents have been forcibly occupied by troops, and a number of the ringleaders captured and executed.

(3) P'êng-yü-lin, the Inspector-General of the naval forces on the Yangtze, memorializes reporting the completion of a portion of his yearly duty in April last, notwithstanding the enfeebled state of his health, which renders active exertion a work of extreme physical difficulty.

May 29th.—(1 and 2) Decrees appointing the assistant Grand Secretary Shên Kwei-fên to the office of the Supervisor of the Record Office of Imperial Decrees; and Tsai Ling to the post of president of the Wu Ying Tien or Imperial Library and printing office. (N.B.—The above are appointments vacated by the decease of the Grand Secretary Wêusiang.)

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialize respecting the appointment of a Magistrate to the District of Shanghai, the importance of which post is enhanced by the foreign relations which are entailed by the proximity of the European settlements at the port in question. The present incumbent of the District Magistracy of Kiang-ning (at Nanking), a native of

Kweichow, named Mo Siang-che, aged 45, whose official career is recounted in all detail, is recommended as the most suitable officer for the post.—Referred for the decision of the Board of Civil Office.

May 30th.—(1) A Decree. Let Wen Ch'êng 文徵 succeed to the post of Commissioner of the Court of Transmission.

(2) The Superintendent of Customs at Canton memorializes reporting that, as a result of the investigation instituted into the damage done by the typhoon of Sept. 22nd, 1874, it was found that 133 houses had been destroyed at the six tax-stations maintained in the neighbourhood of Hong-kong and Macao. The cost of restoring these buildings has amounted to Taels 15,960; which the Superintendent has paid himself as a slight contribution to the public needs.

May 31st.—(1) A decree ordaining a renewed series of supplications, still more solemn, for rain in consequence of the continued drought. His Majesty will proceed in person on the 4th June, to offer incense at the Ta Kao-tien.

(2) The Imperial Clan Court memorializes, reporting its finding in the case of Tsai Kwên, the noble of Imperial lineage who has been put on trial for forcibly appropriating to himself certain Government lands and evicting the tenants therefrom, with other acts of violence.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 16th inst.

June 1st.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Governor of Honan, who has denounced a district Magistrate lately deceased, as a defaulter in large sums of revenue collected by him. The Governor aforesaid, and the Governor-General of Szech'wan, the native province of the deceased, are authorized to seize all the real and personal estate of the defaulter, to be applied in satisfaction of the claim upon him.

(2-3) Two murder cases on appeal from Shantung and Chihli respectively.

(4) The Governor of Chehkiang requests sanction for the expenditure of 11,400 strings of cash for the repairs which are found necessary at the ancient temple erected at the site of the burial place of Yü the Great (B.C. 2200) in the district of Hwei-ki in that province.

June 2nd.—(1) A decree. In four memorials received this day from Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shensi, the dates have been omitted. Let the proper Board take note of this gross act of negligence, and report to Us.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Szech'wan, Wên Kêh, memorializes requesting a mark of Imperial distinction on behalf of a centenarian lady, upon whose virtuous conduct through life he pronounces a formal eulogy. The aged lady in question was born in the 41st year of the reign K'ien Lung, or A.D. 1776, and was consequently reckoned to have passed her 100th anniversary last year. She is at present living with her fifth son, a military officer.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

June 3rd.—(1) A decree conferring appointments upon the 339 successful graduates at the recent examination for the *tsin-sze* degree (see *Gazette* of May 6th.) The three highest in place at the eventual Hanlin examination have already received their nominations. Of the remainder, about one-third are named *Shu Ki Sze*, or compilers, of the Hanlin college; another third are attached as probationers to the Metropolitan Boards; and the remainder, with a few exceptions, are to be distributed by drawings of lot among the different provinces, for immediate appointment to the rank of district Magistrates. A residue of two or three inferior secretaries of Boards, who have taken the degree at this examination, are awarded each a step of advancement.

(2) The Literary Chancellor of Sze-ch'wan, Chang Che-tung, exposes in a long memorial, the abuses and corrupt practices which abound in the literary examination system in the province. The bestowal of degrees is represented as having been converted into a system of traffic through which large profits accrue to the *lin-pao*, or persons whose function it is to give certificates of identity to the intending competitors. A number of devices are recapitulated, by means of which these persons contrive to introduce substitutes, literary hacks in their own employ, in the guise of the real candidates for degrees and their ensuing advantages. The multiplicity of names under which one individual may be known is cited among the causes that contribute to this state of affairs. Measures are duly taken, by bribery of the official clerks, to prevent discovery ensuing through comparison of handwritings. It may sometimes even happen that a candidate who has thus fraudulently obtained a degree will dispose of it for a consideration to a third person. Measures are proposed for ensuring greater strictness in the declarations taken from candidates and their *lin-pao*. Another abuse exposed is that of the extortion habitually practised, during and after the examinations, by threats of exposure of the irregularities

which have been purposely allowed to be practised until the right moment arrives. Certain individuals make a regular business of this practice, and it not unfrequently happens that they lay violent hands upon the persons they intend to blackmail, and hold them in durance until their demands are satisfied. The lawlessness in which the candidates for military degrees indulge is farther exposed. Rules are submitted which may tend, it is hoped, without the application of injudicious severity, to check these evils in future.

June 4th.—Continuation and completion of the above Memorial. For rescript see *Gazette* of May 19th.

June 5th.—No documents of importance.

June 6th.—(1) A decree conferring appointments on the graduates at the Manchu examinations.

(2 and 3) Decrees making appointments to posts in the Ili command, under the Military Governor Yungts'üan. Lieut.-General T'ai K'ing is appointed to act as commander of the Ili forces (*ling tui ta ch'ên.*)

(4) A decree referring to the drought which has now long prevailed in the region around the capital, and which has also extended, with greater or less severity, to the provinces of Shantung, Chihli, and the northern division of Honan. The consequent rise in the cost of the necessities of life cannot fail to be productive of distress among the population. The high authorities concerned are directed to take measures for affording relief and warding off the extremity of suffering. Measures conducive to the provision of a supply of food are to be devised; and the attention of the authorities is specially directed to the danger of a plague of locusts being generated by the drought. The most active measures are to be taken toward destroying the insects before they take wing.

(5) The high authorities of Fuhkien report some changes as follows in the subordinate offices of the provincial administration. The Prefect of Foochow, Lin K'ing-i, having become a Taotai by purchase, the officer lately appointed Prefect of Taiwan, Chang Mêng-yüan by name, is detained to take acting charge of the Prefecture at Foochow. His place at Taiwan is to be filled by a sub-Prefect named Sun Show-ming. The Prefect of Ts'üan-chow Fu, Sü Chên-yao, having been removed from his post, is to be succeeded by the Prefect of Yen-p'ing Fu, Tung Chao-kw'ei, and an expectant Prefect named Chang K'i-yao is named as temporary successor to the latter.

June 7th.—A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Shensi, who has denounced a Brigadier-General named Ch'êng Ting-kwei for harbouring a band of discharged braves, who have committed depredations in the provincial capital. The offender is stripped of his rank and is ordered to be sent back in custody to his native place in An-hwei, and kept under rigid surveillance.

June 8th.—No documents of importance.

June 9th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Gihli, who has impeached Yeo Chên-ling Magistrate of the Ning-tsin district, for flagrantly corrupt conduct in judicial matters. He has not only allowed his underlings to practise extortion, and has shared in the illicit gain thus obtained, but he has even had the audacity to lend himself to measures devised with the object of defeating appeals. He is stripped of his rank and excluded for ever from the public service.

(2) A decree referring for the consideration of the Board of Revenue a proposal advanced by the Censor Chow Shêng-chut who recommends that the area of salt consumption formerly allotted to the yield of the region north of the Yangtze 淮鹽引地 be resumed, and smuggling from Szech'wan 川私 be put a stop to. (This refers to arrangements made in the early years of the Taiping rebellion, by which, on the navigation of the Yangtze being interrupted, the salt produced in Szech'wan was allowed to be brought down for sale in Hupeh. See a mention of the subject in the "Report of the Delegates of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce on the Trade of the Upper Yangtze," 1869.)

(3) A decree in reply to a memorial from Wên-yih, Manchu Commander-in-chief and acting Governor-General at Foochow, and Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, who have impeached certain civil and military officials, whose dismissal from the service and execution are respectively recommended. A Brigadier and brevet General named Chu Ming-têng is accused of leaving vacancies in the number of the braves under his command unfilled, and of giving sanction to the embezzlement of soldiers' pay which was perpetrated by a Lieutenant-Colonel named Kwoh Chên-ming and other of his subordinates, including a Captain named Ho Tsi-tsu and a petty civilian officer named Kwoh Ping-i. The last named official and General Chu Ming-têng are stripped of their rank and

dismissed the public service for ever. Kwoh Chên-ming and Ho Tsi-tsu, who are farther accused of having dealt in opium, which they sold to the troops under their command, are for their flagrant violation of military duty to be publicly decapitated in the presence of their troops.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting a fire which broke out on the 14th May, after a long period of severe drought, in the Military stores close to the South Gate of the city of Tientsin. By means of great exertion on the part of the authorities, the fire was got under, but not until a quantity of percussion caps, tents, and old small arms had been destroyed. The shot and shell was recovered in a condition enabling it still to be used; and none of the other stores or of the adjacent buildings were injured, nor were any lives lost. The *matériel* appertaining to the army around Tientsin is, as a rule, kept in store at Taku, Sing Ch'êng, and the other fortified places, the stores of foreign gunpowder being deposited at the magazine at Ma-ti Wan on the bank of the Peiho. The foreign artillery and small arms of the new patterns are stored at Ta Shêng Sze, the north Granaries, Wan T'ow, and the Treaty Joss-house (Hai Kuang Sze), all of which places are at some little distance from Tientsin; and an intermediate store for receiving and delivering arms of all descriptions was consequently established in the city at the point above mentioned. A special officer, Yang Ta-yüeh by name, was put in charge of this department, and although it is ascertained on enquiry that the late fire was occasioned by spontaneous combustion, owing to the excessive heat of the weather, the responsible officer is nevertheless liable by law to the infliction of a penalty for the outbreak of the conflagration. It is requested that he be deprived of his button.—Sanctioned by rescript.

June 10th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the acting Military Governor of Shêng-King and the Lieut.-Governor K'i-yüan, who have reported the result of an enquiry which they have carried into effect, in obedience to a decree, with regard to the conduct of Mu-t'u-shan, acting Military Governor of the adjoining province of Kirin, on his being denounced by the Censor Têng K'ing-lin for employing unfit subordinates and other malpractices. Although the charge of neglecting his troops and of showing indifference to the interests of the people are not sustained, impropriety of conduct, which has exposed him to public criticism, has nevertheless been proved. As he has, in the meanwhile,

been dismissed the public service on other grounds (see *Gazette* of May 12th), it is unnecessary to deal further with his case. Certain Manchu officers, under his orders, are variously punished for acts of extortion and corrupt conduct.

(2) The Governor-General and Generalissimo Tso Tsung-t'ang, memorializes in conjunction with his adjutant-general Liu Tien, reporting the Spring inspection and review of the troops constituting the garrison of Lan-chow Fu. This was held, according to regulation, on the 25th April last, much to the satisfaction of the memorialists. The troops were exercised in skirmishing and light infantry movements, platoon firing, artillery, and rocket practice, in all of which they showed themselves thoroughly drilled, excelling in efficiency the mode of warfare with sword, spear, and shield. Rewards have been bestowed on the most deserving.

(3) The Governor of Hunan memorializes interceding on behalf of the former Governor of the province, Liu Kw'en, who, after being twice degraded several steps of rank for official shortcomings, was superseded in 1872 and ordered to proceed to Peking to await farther employment. He then obtained sick leave; and it is now besought, as eight years have passed away since his first offence, that he may be reinstated in his rank and allowed, on the restoration of his health, to look for re-employment.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

(4) The Governor of Hunan reports his having sanctioned the remission of the *likin* tax upon maize within the limits of the province, in view of the high price of breadstuffs. Grain exported to other provinces to pay the tax still.—Rescript: It is noted.

June 11th.—(1) A decree commanding a renewed series of supplications for rain to be held on the 15th inst. His Majesty will offer incense himself at the Ta Kao-tien.

(2) The Brigadier-General of the Ma-lan command (north-eastern part of Chihli, including the neighbourhood of Ku-pei K'ow) reports upon forest fires 野火 which devastated part of the imperial woodlands near Jeh-ho during the months of February and March last, and the measures instituted for combating their spread by the action of the soldiery and country people.

June 12th.—No documents of importance.

June 13th.—The Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces memorializes

with reference to Colonel Shang Ch'ang-mow (a member of the *Han Kün* or Chinese Banner force), who, having for his services as commandant of the steam gunboat squadron been recommended to the Throne and placed on the list of expectant Brigadier-Generals of a Manchu command, is required in accordance with recent regulations to proceed to Peking for audience. It is represented that as the services of the officer in question are specially valuable, in connection with the international questions which are of frequent occurrence in Kwangtung, and also with the measures rendered necessary for the suppression of brigandage and piracy, his retention for the moment at Canton is specially desirable. He has long acted as Commandant of the *Tuh Piao*, or Governor-General's own brigade, and his local knowledge is highly valuable. It is requested that he be allowed to delay his departure for Peking until after the autumn examinations are over.

June 14th.—No documents of importance.

June 15th.—(1) A decree based upon representations from the Censors Chang Shêng-tsao and Li T'ing-siao, who have memorialized upon the urgent necessity for remedial measures entailed by the drought with which the North of China has been visited. They request, as a first step, that funds be vouchsafed from the Imperial treasury. The Board of Revenue is commanded to consider and report without delay.

(2) The Governor of Kweichow memorializes reporting that on the departure of the Financial Commissioner, Lin Shao-yüan, on his way to Peking for audience, the Judicial Commissioner of the province, Yü Sze-ch'u, has been appointed to act in his stead.

(3) The same authority memorializes requesting sanction to a change of name on the part of a brevet Brigadier-General, now known as Li K'i-shu, who has petitioned stating that his own family surname is Chu, and that he had been given in adoption, when a child, to a maternal uncle named Li, who was at that time childless. His adoptive father having now, however, had issue, he requests permission to return to his own family stock and resume the surname Chu. The Governor certifies that no penalties are on record against the applicant's name, nor any sentence of exclusion in perpetuity from the public service.—Referred by rescript to the Board of War.

June 16th.—(1) The Governor of Cheh-kiang memorializes reporting the apprehension and conveyance to Peking of an individual whose testimony is required in the appeal case now pending before the Board of Punishments, his name having been found on a scrap of paper which was discovered in the possession of Shên Yü-she, the mother of the man alleged to have been poisoned by his wife Ko Pi-she, on her being searched on arrival at Peking.

(2) Ts'ung-shih, acting Military Governor of Shêng-king, and the lieutenant Governor, K'i-yüan, memorialize reporting the amount of public funds they have received from the date of the commencement of their mission of enquiry on the 8th April, 1875, up to the 28th January, 1876, on which date the Board's despatch, communicating the establishment of the new form of provincial organization, was received. For all the expenditure of the special mission, a sum of Taels 24,500 was drawn from the Customs' treasury of Shan Hai Kwan, of which amount Taels 18,520 have been expended.

June 17th.—(1) A Decree of the Empresses Regent, in answer to a Memorial by the Censor P'an Tun-yen, who has solicited that the Prince of Ch'un (father of the young Emperor) be relieved of his official appointments. The Censor has referred to the Prince's memorial, presented in January, 1875, after the elevation of his infant son to the Throne, in which the Prince himself besought this grace; and goes on to particularize the various State appointments which have, notwithstanding, been imposed upon his Highness, including the post of superintendent of the studies which the young Emperor has lately entered upon. The Censor likewise prays that public distinction be conferred in some shape upon the deceased Empress Consort of the late reign, in order that hidden virtue may be made to shine forth. The Empresses Dowager declare that the Censor has grossly misinterpreted the motives that actuate his rulers. His memorial has filled them with astonishment. As regards the late Empress Consort, a title of honour was conferred upon her after her decease, and there can be no question of a change which is totally uncalled for. That the Censor should give the reins to his own imagination, and unwarrantably address the Throne, is in itself an act of folly; but that he should, still further, have the boldness to introduce into a memorial statements without foundation, derived from rumour alone, is yet more gravely reprehensible. Let

P'an Tun-yen be handed over to the Board for the decision of a severe penalty.

(2) The Acting Governor-General of Min Cheh and the Governor of Fuhkien jointly memorialize, denouncing certain officials, civil and military, for making false returns, embezzling the pay of their soldiery, and trafficking in opium. Reports of misconduct among the officials in Formosa having reached the high authorities, confidential instructions were sent by the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, to the Taotai of T'aiwan to institute an investigation. The result has been the inculcation of a brevet-general named Chu Ming-t'eng, who is shewn to have neglected to fill up vacancies in the ranks of his force which had been caused by deaths from endemic disease, and to have been guilty otherwise of culpable laxity. A Lieutenant-Colonel, a Captain, and a petty civilian functionary under his command are found to have combined together to embezzle the pay of the soldiery, and to have engaged, furthermore, in a traffic in opium, which they sold to the troops. It is requested that the brevet-general and the civilian functionary be dismissed for ever from the public service; and that the two remaining offenders be condemned to suffer the last penalty of the law in presence of their troops.—Sanctioned by rescript already published.

June 18th.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from Li Hung-chang, who has reported that an official of the Imperial Household, named Sü Ch'ang, has conspired with a brother of his, named Kwei Ch'ang, and certain country landholders, to give himself out fictitiously as an officer charged with an Imperial commission to enquire into some pending question relating to property in the department of Yen-k'ing Chow. The brother, Kwei Ch'ang, has manufactured a fraudulent official seal in connection with the affair. Sü Chang is stripped of his rank, and is handed over to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with. The apprehension of the other brother is at the same time commanded.

(2) The Censor Chow Shêng-chu memorializes, soliciting that the system under which, at present, the salt produced in Szech'wan is allowed to find a market in Hupeh and Hunan may be abolished, and the supply produced on the north-eastern seaboard may be restored to its former position of authorized monopoly. The introduction of the Sze-ch'wan salt, he shews, was consented to as a temporary expedient during the rebellion, when Nanking was in the possession of the insurgents, and the Yangtze consequently

impassable; but since 1868, on the recommendation of the late Governor-General Tsêng-kwo-fan, measures have been taken, by increasing the duty on the Sze-ch'wan salt, to encourage the importation of supplies from the eastward again. Notwithstanding the action of government, however, the authorities of the province of Hupeh have done all in their power to support the Szech'wan trade,—so much so that the eastern salt depôts have been shut out from a demand extending to upwards of 200,000 *yin* per annum, the *yin* of the Hwai Nan salt area being of 600 catties each. This, moreover, independently of the contraband trade. The conduct of the late Governor-General of Hukwang, Li Han-chang, is attacked by the Censor with great acerbity. He is accused of favouring the Szech'wan salt-trade by all means in his power, even to the extent of ordering the withdrawal of guardboats heretofore employed to prevent contraband practices in Hunan.—Rescript, referring the subject for the deliberation of the Board of Revenue, already published.

June 19th.—(1) Ts'ung-shih, acting Military Governor of Shêng-king, and his civil colleague, K'i Yüan, report the result of the enquiry undertaken, in obedience to a decree received by them on the 29th March last, into the conduct of Mut'ushan, Military Governor of the adjacent province of Kirin.—Rescript already published.

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, reports that the newly appointed Director-in-Chief of the Foochow Arsenal, Wu Tsan-ch'êng, arrived at his post and took over the seal of office on the 23rd May.

June 20th.—(1) A decree, commanding that a memorial board be prepared and forwarded to Wên Pin, the Governor-General of the Grain Transport, to be suspended in the Temple of the River God at Yang Chwang, in testimony of gratitude for the divine assistance reported as having been vouchsafed to the grain squadron on its way northward.

(2) Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor of Shêng-king, reports the receipt of the new seal of office, issued to him in his capacity as Governor-General (*Tsung-tuh*), under the system lately adopted for the provincial organization in Manchuria. The seal was used for the first time on the 2nd inst., after having been brought from Peking by the special officer who was despatched to take it in charge.

June 21st.—No documents of importance.

June 22nd.—(1) A decree, referring to the drought which still continues, notwithstanding the often repeated supplications for rain. Now that the summer solstice

has passed, and the heavens still withhold their moisture, the need experienced by the tillers of the soil is most serious in degree. It is commanded, therefore, that as an addition to all the other solemn services that have been held, a sacrifice shall be offered on the 28th inst., at the Altar of the Spirits of the Land and Grain, at which the Prince of Kung shall act as the sovereign's deputy, commencing with a fast upon the 25th inst. [N.B.—The sanctuary referred to above, is, under ordinary circumstances, sacrificed at by the Emperor alone, and resort to it in the present instance indicates a sense of the most pressing necessity and danger].

(2) A decree, referring to the foregoing, and commanding a renewed series of intercessions, on the 28th inst., at all the State temples, his Majesty proceeding in person to the Ta Kao Tien, as usual.

(3) The Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, Liu Ch'ang-yeo, memorializes, reporting that having set out from the provincial capital of Hunan on the 29th of March, on his way to his new post; and having been met on his journey by a despatch from the late acting Governor-General Ts'ên Yü-ying, urging his speedy arrival, he left his boats and hastened forward by land, arriving at the provincial capital of Kweichow on the 16th April. He here received, from the hand of an official sent to meet him by Ts'ên Yü-ying, the seal of office as Governor-General, of which he forthwith assumed charge. Knowing that anxiety must prevail on the subject at Peking, he sends the present memorial by special courier, in lieu of forwarding it by the ordinary government post, as would be in regular order.

June 23rd.—(1) A Decree based upon a report presented by the Board of Revenue, in obedience to commands issued in consequence of the Memorial by the Censor Chang Shêng-tsao on the subject of the prevailing drought. The Board has proposed that the Governments of the provinces of Chihli and Fêng-tien, and of the region surrounding the capital, be instructed to devise the requisite measures of relief; and also that a sum of Tls. 100,000 be allotted from the treasury of the Board for distribution. This proposal is sanctioned; and the high authorities above referred to, together with the Governors of Shantung and Honan, are commanded to decide upon the proper means of bringing supplies of food within reach of the people, by the establishment of relief agencies, and to guard with the utmost vigour against speculation on the part of underlings. It is left to

the high authorities concerned to decide whether grain shall be purchased from a distance, or whether contributions shall be solicited in each jurisdiction.

June 24th.—(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the escape of a prisoner whilst being conveyed to Peking under sentence of death by strangulation, as an accessory to a murder. The Magistrate of the Fêng-jun district has reported that on the 12th of April last, the prisoner in question arrived under escort at his district city, having been sent forward from the adjacent district of Lu-lung, to be conveyed to the provincial capital to await the order for execution. On the following day, after due examination of the prisoner's fetters, he was sent on in custody of local policemen to the district of Yü-t'ien, lying next on the route. The jail-warden, being unwell, was not able to proceed in person with the escort. On the afternoon of the same day, when at a point 20 li from Yü-t'ien, the escort was attacked by nine men, some mounted and some on foot, who dragged the prisoner from the cart, knocked off his fetters, helped him to mount a pony, and made off. Such being the case, it is requested that, in addition to the measures to be taken for the recapture of the escaped felon, the three district Magistrates concerned may be subjected to a penalty. The Magistrate of Yü-t'ien is not exempt from a charge of negligence, although the prisoner had not yet reached his hands, since the rescue took place within his district.—Sanctioned by rescript, commanding the Board to award the proper penalty according to law.

(2) In a further Memorial, Li Hung-chang reports the completion of the works undertaken for the repair of the walls of Pao-t'ing Fu, the provincial capital of Chihli, which were greatly dilapidated and were still farther injured by the heavy rains of 1873. A system of labour relief works was instituted, for the benefit of the starving population deprived of their means of support through the floods of 1872 and 1873; and a sum of Tls. 25,596 has been disbursed for the maintenance of the gangs of men by whom the rebuilding of the walls has now been completed.

June 25th. — (Court Circular.) — The Office of Gendarmerie reported the apprehension of certain prisoners charged with highway robbery, who have been handed over to the Board of Punishments.

The Censors Chang Shêng-tsao and Li T'ing-siao memorialize soliciting attention

to the measures of relief which are rendered necessary by the prevailing drought, and urge timely action for the provision of means of support for the population of the region now afflicted. (See Rescripts already published.)

June 26th. — Li Ho-nien, Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chehkiang, and Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, memorialize reporting the trial and sentence of the guilty parties in a case where certain criminals forming a gang of smugglers had fired upon and killed a tide-waiter in the foreign Customs, while resisting capture.

In May, 1875, it came to the knowledge of P'êng Lüan, acting Magistrate of the district of Min, that a criminal named Lin Yi-nun, while engaged in defrauding the revenue, by smuggling opium from a steamer at Ma-wei (Pagoda Anchorage), had fired upon and killed a tide-waiter in the foreign Customs, a British subject, named Pi-la-lo (Blacklock.) Upon reporting the matter, the Magistrate was directed by your servant Li Ho-nien, and the late Governor Wang K'ai-t'ai, to take part with Hêh-chêng, Commissioner of foreign Customs at the port of Foochow, in viewing the body. They found a shot wound in the chest, which was the actual cause of death. The Commissioner caused the body to be buried, and gave a gratuity [to the family.] It appears that Lin Yi-nun had already been engaged in acts of smuggling, in the month of April, 1875, and that the Magistrate P'êng Lüan, while making inquiries with a view to his apprehension, had also moved the foreign Customs at Foochow to detach the tide-waiter Blacklock to assist in the arrest. This criminal, then, beginning with numerous audacious acts of smuggling, had added to these the crime of shooting at a foreigner; and unless the immediate arrest and severe punishment of this man were made to follow, the due protection of the revenue, and respect for the laws would alike be ignored. Accordingly, officers, both civil and military, together with the gun-vessel *Min-an*, were despatched to cooperate with the force acting under the orders of the responsible military authorities and district Magistrate, in using their utmost endeavours to apprehend the guilty parties. In due course, a report was received, announcing the arrest of Lin Yi-nun, Ch'ên Huang-chung, and Ch'ên Mei-ti. At the examination of these men before the Judicial Commissioner, it was elicited that Lin Yi-nun, Ch'ên Huang-chung, and Ch'ên Mei-ti were all three natives of

the district of Min, and acquaintances of old standing. In April, 1875, Lin Yi-nun formed a project of embarking in an opium smuggling venture, as a highly profitable enterprise, and he proceeded to form a gang consisting of his clansmen Lin Kuo-ch'ang, Lin Shih-erh-chih, Lin Ch'i-hui, and Lin Cheng-hing, it being arranged that each should contribute a certain amount of capital. With this money they purchased from certain Cantonese, whose names are unknown, 12 balls of opium, which Lin Yi-nun, Lin Kuo-ch'ang and the others surreptitiously conveyed by unfrequented mountain paths to the districts of Yung-fu and Ch'ang-lo, where it was disposed of, the proceeds being divided between Lin Kuo-ch'ang and the rest. The Magistrate, at the time, instituted inquiries with a view to the arrest of the offending persons, and on his motion orders were given by the Commissioner of foreign Customs at the port of Foochow to the tide-waiter Blacklock, to assist in seizing the smugglers, but without result. On the 26th of May, Lin Yi-nun having ascertained that a steamer had arrived and anchored at Ma-wei, he again arranged with his clansmen Lin Ch'ang-si, Lin Tao-yang, Lin Tao-t'ung, and a neighbour named Ch'ên Pi-ku'ei, that each should provide funds with which to purchase 20 balls of opium from the same unknown Cantonese, with whom it was agreed that payment should not be made until after delivery of the opium. Lin Yi-nun procured a fast boat, and, with firearms in his possession, set out accompanied by Lin Ch'ang-si and the others to take delivery of the smuggled [opium.] He had further engaged Ch'ên Huang-chung, and Ch'ên Mei-ti to work the boat, promising to pay them extra well when he had made sure of his gains. Ch'ên Huang-chung consented, and that night, during the second watch (9 to 11 p.m.), when the boat had reached Ma-wei, they saw a foreigner keeping strict watch on board the steamer, and were thus prevented from accomplishing their purpose. Ch'ên Huang-chung was directed to take the boat round to a secluded spot and there remain, while Lin Yi-nun went alone to the house of the Cantonese, and paid him one hundred dollars, the price agreed upon. During the fourth watch (1 to 3 a.m.) he returned to the boat, and told Ch'ên Huang-chung to take it alongside the steamer to receive the smuggled [opium.] As it happened, they were descried by the foreigner Blacklock, who fired, and raised an alarm. Lin Yi-nun discharged his piece to prevent being seized, and struck Blacklock in the chest.

Ch'ên Huang-chung, and Ch'ên Mei-ti joined in the shouting, but did not raise a hand. Lin Yi-nun threw away his gun, and told Ch'ên Huang-chung to make off with the boat. When apprehended and examined, they made a confession to this effect.

This being a matter of international import, and the attendant circumstances of extreme gravity, Your servant and his colleagues, upon receipt of the Magistrate's report, directed Chang Tung-liang, a Captain in the Foochow garrison, and P'êng Lüan, acting Magistrate of the district of Min, to conduct the prisoner Lin Yi-nun to immediate execution, as the first proceeding taken with a view to punishment. Ch'ên Mei-ti and the other prisoner were reported to be lying ill. Upon their recovery they were again arraigned, before the Judicial Commissioner Chang Yoh-ling, who sent them up for superior examination. Your servant and his colleagues caused the prisoners to be produced, and subjected them to a searching trial, at which they confirmed without reserve their previous statements. Inquiry showed that they had not been connected with the acts of smuggling, and that when Lin Yi-nun opposed the attempt to effect his arrest, they merely joined in the yelling and shouting, without taking part in the attack. A searching examination failed to shake their statements, or to shew that anything had been suppressed or misrepresented in the case. The law provides as follows:—Where a crime has been discovered, and the officers of government send men to make an arrest, and in resisting the police one of their number is killed, the principals [in the murder] shall suffer summary decapitation. The law further lays down that, where an escaped criminal resists apprehension, and kills the person attempting his seizure, the sentence is decapitation, and in the case of accessories, a penalty less severe in one degree. In the case under consideration, Lin Yi-nun formed a gang to defraud the foreign Custom House, and after a warrant had been issued for his apprehension, he still persevered in his criminal course, and in resisting capture fired upon and killed Blacklock, a tide-water in the foreign Customs. Blacklock had been directed to assist in detecting [the prisoner] at the instance of the Magistrate, and, therefore, was in the position of a person sent by an officer of the Government to effect an arrest. Sentence has to be pronounced, therefore, according to the law. The case of Lin

Yi-nun comes under the section following:—Where a crime has been discovered, and the officers of Government despatch police to effect an arrest, should resistance to the police result in the death of one of their number, the principal offenders shall suffer immediate decapitation. The sentence of summary execution has been pronounced, and has already been carried into effect, on the spot where the crime was committed; it need therefore not be taken into further consideration. As regards Ch'ên Huang-chung and Ch'ên Mei-ti, no warrant was out for their apprehension, neither were they parties to the acts of smuggling. When Lin Yi-nun resisted the attempts to capture him, they merely joined in the shouting, and did not strike a blow. Their case, [therefore], is not met by the law imposing banishment on accessories, as contained in the clause under which Lin Yi-nun was condemned to be executed; but, nevertheless, as these criminals hired their services to work the boat, and were present and shouted at the time that Lin Yi-nun resisted capture, they become accessories, and must come under the law which provides that, when a criminal causes death in resisting apprehension, the punishment of the accessories shall be one degree less severe than that of the principal. As one degree less severe than the punishment of death awarded to the principal by the statute, the sentence on each is that he receive one hundred blows, and be banished to the prescribed region, 3,000 li off, the personal penalty being commuted [as allowed by law]. A limited period has been allowed for the arrest of the offenders who are at large, viz., Lin Ch'ang-si, and his confederates, as well as the unknown Cantonese who sold the smuggled opium. When in custody their trial and punishment shall be proceeded with. The murderous weapon, it was stated in evidence, was thrown away, so its recovery need not be attempted. The Commissioner of Customs has attended to the interment of the remains, and has given relief [to the family.]

Copies of the evidence and confessions are being sent to the Ministers of the Board of Punishments, and to the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, for their information; and Your servants, in conjunction with Wên-yih, Tartar General at Foochow, being of one accord, humbly present this Memorial, upon which, prostrate, they entreat the Sacred Glance of their Majesties the Empresses, and His Majesty the Emperor; and they further pray that the

Board of Punishments be directed to consider and report, that action may proceed.

To the foregoing Memorial the Grand Council has received a rescript in the following words:—"Let the Board of Punishments consider and report."

June 27th.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Wu Hung-ên has memorialized Us representing that changes ought not to be precipitately introduced in the *likin* taxation upon Szech'wan salt. Let the Board of Revenue consider, and report upon this subject.

(2) A decree appointing Pao Ying 保英 to the post of senior Resident at Kobdo, vice T'o-lun-pu, lately allowed to retire. Kwei Siang 桂祥 is appointed successor to Pao Ying in the post of assistant Resident.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the detection and arrest of an impostor, who had made his appearance at Yen-k'ing Chow, in the prefecture of Süan-hwa Fu, where he gave himself out as an officer of the fourth rank, employed in the department of the Imperial household, deputed to proceed on a mission of inspection of lands heretofore appropriated to the Imperial use for the production of fruit. His arrival was heralded by a despatch, purporting to proceed from the Household office, desiring all local authorities along the line of his journey to provide him with lodging, maintenance, and transport. He had a suite of 11 persons. The suspicions of the department magistrate being aroused, this officer questioned him closely with regard to his official antecedents, and on the impostor finally losing heart and being thrown into confusion, his effects were searched, and a seal engraved on stone was discovered, impressions of which were found to correspond with the stamps affixed to a number of documents sealed in blank which Sü Ch'ang, the inculpatated person, had with him. He is found to belong to one of the Peking banners, and to have rank as a petty military officer. In concert with his brother, Kwei Ch'ang, he had concocted the idea of giving himself out as an officer of the Household proceeding upon this mission, as a means of obtaining money. The impostor and his followers, only one of whom was cognizant of the intended fraud, are in custody.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 18th. inst.

(4) The Censor P'an Tun-yen memorializes with reference to the Prince of Ch'un, the present Emperor's father, who, in January

1875, on the elevation of his infant son to the Throne, besought permission to resign all his offices of state. His Highness has, notwithstanding, been retained in posts of duty, notably in the superintendence of the Imperial studies, and his consequent position as a Minister with reference to his own son is attended by peculiar difficulties. The Censor entreats therefore, that regard may be had to the prayer heretofore expressed by the Prince himself, and that he be relieved of all official cares without exception.

In a second memorial the Censor refers to the consort of his late Majesty, the Empress canonized as Hiao Cheh I Hwang How, who departed this life on the 27th March, 1875, before the expiry of the hundred days of mourning for his departed Majesty. So sudden a decease struck the whole Empire with amazement and sorrow, and the public ways were filled with reports of divers kinds. By some it was said that her Majesty had fallen into incurable sickness through grief; by others that she had shortened her days by refusing to take sustenance. If statements such as these be true, the noble constancy thus manifested deserves some conspicuous form of celebration, as the only means of consoling the disembodied Majesty in Heaven, and of responding to the wishes of the myriads of the people. It is not to be supposed that the drought now prevailing is solely due to the absence of measures such as those now suggested; but on the other hand, if by a special Decree the virtue now undistinguished were made gloriously to shine forth, this might, not impossibly, serve as a means of conciliating the powers of nature. The Censor humbly submits for consideration the advisability of bestowing upon the late Empress an altered title of canonization. (For rescript, severely censuring the Censor for his presumption, see *Gazette* of June 17.)

June 28th.—A decree in answer to a memorial from Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor of Shêngking, who has reported the execution of the repairs needed at the King Tien Koh, or Hall in which the portraits of the successive Emperors are preserved at Moukden. The Imperial astronomers are directed to select an auspicious day for the transference of the portraits to the building in question.

No other documents of importance.

June 29th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from the acting Governor of Kiangsi, reporting the result of an investigation into a case in which certain alterations were unlawfully

made in an essay handed in at the examinations of last autumn.

June 30th.—(1) A decree referring to the visitations with which during the last few years the province of Chihli has been successively afflicted, and to the severe drought which is now prevailing. In addition to the partial exemptions from collection of arrears of land-tax granted in 1871-1873, total exemption is now accorded, and proclamations embodying this decree are ordered to be issued.

(2) A second decree on the subject of the prevailing drought and scarcity. In conformity with a request on the part of the Governor-General Li Hung-chang, sanction is given to the retention [at Tientsin for distribution] of a portion of the grain supply being sent forward for the service of the present year to Peking. The whole of the maize forming the latter portion of the grain supply from Shantung, together with 2,900 piculs coming forward from Newchwang, and 11,700 piculs on the way from other districts of Manchuria, is to be retained in this manner. Proper measures are to be devised for the distribution of these supplies, the authorities bearing in mind, as the first essential, that relief is to be placed equally within the reach of all, and that not a single person be left deprived of the means of subsistence.

(3) Wên Pin, Governor-General of the Grain Transport, reports the passage of the whole of the junks laden with the rice from Kiang-peh for Peking, across the boundary between Kiang-peh and Shantung, to continue their progress northward. The number of vessels is 611, carrying 110,500 piculs of rice. On the 23rd March last, they completed their passage over the locks at Ts'ing-kiang-p'u, and, notwithstanding the great difficulties entailed this year by want of water in the Canal, which has been met by digging out the channel in places to greater depth, the grain squadron was at length towed past the boundary station at Hwang Lin Chwang, on the southern border-line of Shantung, on the 8th June.

July 1st.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the high authorities at Foochow, reporting the occurrence of disastrous floods, and the measures that have been instituted for the relief of the sufferers. Several prefectures, beside that of Foochow, are represented to have been visited by an excessive rainfall in the course of the present year, and this, combined with an unusually high state of the tides and the swelling of the rivers, caused the neighbourhood of Foochow and the

city itself to be flooded to a depth varying from a few feet to four or five yards. The loss of life and property that ensued is deeply deplored; and the high authorities are commanded to see that the requisite measures of relief be instituted by their subordinates. Supplies of food are to be provided as may be necessary.

(2) The Board of Revenue memorializes in obedience to the decree issued upon the request presented by the Censors Chang Shêng-tsao and Li T'ing-siao (see *Gazette* of June 25), urging that measures of relief be taken in consequence of the drought and threatened famine in the northern provinces. After reciting the text of the memorial and decrees already issued, the Board proceeds to recommend, in conformity with the precedent of 1867, that a sum of Taels 100,000 be provided from its Treasury toward the wants of the province of Chihli; and farther suggests that a portion of the maize now coming forward from Shantung be detained at Tientsin and placed at the disposal of the provincial authorities. (For rescript, see *Gazette* of 23rd June).

July 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Kwang Show has memorialized Us, referring to the drought of the season and the calamitous condition of affairs, and praying that injunctions be laid upon all officials throughout the Empire to bestir themselves actively in cultivating a higher tone of rectitude. At the present moment, when the state of affairs is involved in so many difficulties, when peace has not ensued upon the military operations undertaken on the Western frontier, when the public revenue is the reverse of abundant, and the people at large are straitened in their means of livelihood, the season of drought which afflicts this year the population of the region surrounding the capital, and the provinces of Chihli, Shantung, and their neighbourhood, has affected Us by day and night, in the recesses of Our palace, with feelings of the profoundest grief and anxiety. It is your duty, O ye officers of Government of every degree throughout the Empire, to arouse your energies and devote your undivided attention to the discharge of your duties, without lapsing to the smallest extent into mere routine. At the seat of government, let all superior authorities devote themselves sedulously to forwarding the proper discharge of the duties of their respective departments, and observe with careful attention the character and activity displayed by their subordinates. In the provinces, let the Governors-General and Governors attend with the utmost care to all that

affects the interests of the country and the happiness of the people. Still more is it incumbent upon them to prescribe in the rectitude of their own conduct an example to their subordinates, and to be at once rigorous and discerning in denunciation of the unworthy and in advancement of the deserving, to the end that all efforts may be united toward coping with the perils of the time, and that the highest form of order may daily be advanced. In such wise will response be given to the Sovereign's earnest exhortation.

(2) Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor of Shêngking, and the local vice-President of the Board of Works at Moukden memorialize reporting certain buildings appertaining to the Imperial Mausolea to be in a state of extreme dilapidation, and request authority for the execution of repairs.

(3) Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor of Shingking, denounces a district Magistrate, living in retirement at his native place in the T'ieh-ling district, for the offence of levying an unauthorized toll upon the traffic passing along a line of roadway which traverses land under his ownership. The road in question was diverted from its earlier course some time ago, so as to pass through the delinquent's property, owing to the old track having become impracticable, and he took advantage of this to levy a toll of 50 *cash* per picul on all grain transported over his land. The local authorities were moved to interfere, and they finally purchased some fifty odd *mow* of land from himself and 36 other proprietors to be converted into a public roadway; notwithstanding which he has set their orders at defiance, has pulled up the boundary marks, and has continued to levy his tolls. Sanction for his degradation and trial is requested.—Granted by previous rescript.

July 3rd.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported a fall of rain at Peking to the extent of three inches (of vertical saturation.)

(1-3) Decrees appointing Literary Examiners for the Examinations to be held during the coming autumn for the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Fukien.

(4-6) Memorials from the acting Governor-General of Hu Kwang, reporting the despatch of funds from the provincial and Customs' treasuries in discharge of the liabilities imposed by various Imperial decrees. For the army of Tso Tsung-t'ang on the northwest frontier, in addition to Tls. 200,000 which it was contrived to provide and send forward

some months ago, an additional amount of Tls. 180,000 has now further been allotted for the same purpose, which is to be conveyed to its destination in charge of a special officer. The total amount thus contributed from the exchequer of Hupeh should be held to represent, it is requested, the quota due from that province for the ten months ending in December next. For the supply of funds to Peking, Hupeh has been assessed by the Board of Revenue in the amount of Tls. 300,000 for the current year, to be drawn from the foreign Maritime Customs' revenue at Hankow. Three instalments of Tls. 30,000 each have already been remitted, and a fourth is now reported as having gone forward. In addition to the foregoing, it has been ordered that a monthly payment of Tls. 20,000 from the 2/5ths division (Peking quota) and of Tls. 30,000 from the 3/5ths division (provincial quota) of the foreign Maritime Customs' revenue at Hankow is to be remitted by way of supplies to the army chest of Li Hung-chang's command; and a remittance to the above amount, derived from the receipts of the sixty-third quarterly period of the Customs' collectorate, has now been sent forward.

July 4th.—No documents of importance.

July 5th.—(1) A decree giving expression to the Imperial sorrow on learning, through a memorial from Yung-ts'üan, Military Governor of Ili, that the lieutenant general (*ling tui ta ch'ên*) of the So-lun command, Erkênpat'u, has succumbed to an attack of illness.

(2) The Governor of Chêhkiang memorializes reporting the expenditure incurred within the province in providing for the transport of the detachment of Manchu soldiers, with their families, who were removed two years ago from the sedentary garrison at Têh-chow to recruit the numbers of the force settled at Hangchow Fu. One captain, two lieutenants, and two hundred men were ordered by decree, on the application of the Manchu commander-in-chief in Chêhkiang, to be thus transplanted; and the numbers of the force, on its arrival, were as follows, viz., 3 officers, 199 men, 129 young men and boys, 242 women and girls, and 55 female children of tender age. The amount of Tls. 415 was expended by the Magistrates of four districts in Chêhkiang in providing them with transport to Hangchow.

July 6th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial sorrow on receipt of intelligence of the decease of the Resident at Hami, Wên-lin, whose services in the command he has held at that exposed point are warmly extolled.

(2) A decree deploring the continuance of the drought, which it has been sought for so long a time past to avert by continued supplications; and which is scarcely relieved by the slight amount of rain that has thus far fallen. A renewed series of sacrificial ceremonies is ordained to be held on the 11th inst., at all the State temples. The Prince of Kung is to represent the Emperor at the most solemn of the services held.

(3) A decree, appointing Ming Ch'un 明春 to the post of Resident at Hami, and a Manchu *fu tu-t'ung*, named Têh-k'êh-ki-na, to proceed from Peking as his successor in the post of Assistant-Resident.

(4) The Censor Wu Hung-ên memorializes, combating the views expressed in the memorial lately presented by the Censor Chow Shêng-chu on the subject of the Szech'wan salt trade (see *Gazette* of June 18.) He represents that, as a question of revenue, the proposed exclusion of the Szech'wan salt from the consumption area it has been allowed of late years to occupy in Hupeh and Hunan, would be highly injurious; and observes that the Censor who proposed this step has been misled into recommending an ill-considered policy, through giving ear to the one-sided representations of the salt trade of Hwai-nan (the north-eastern seaboard producing area).

The amount of salt allotted by regulation to the Hwai area, to be sent forward for consumption annually, is 1,820,000 *yin*, the total levy upon which, in the shape of salt tax and *likin* combined (*k'o li* 課厘) does not exceed some Taels 3,000,000. On the other hand, according to the rules laid down defining the areas to be supplied respectively from the Hwai region and from Szech'wan, five prefectures and one department in Hupeh, and one department in Hunan, are assigned to the Szech'wan salt trade, which delivers about 160,000 *yin* per annum, yielding *li k'o* to the amount of something over Taels 2,000,000. The Censor justifies the insinuation levelled against the informants of his colleague, by observing that in the Hwai region, the *likin* on salt is light in amount, and the trade distinguished by grave abuses, as a consequence of which the trader profits. In Szech'wan, on the contrary, it is the *likin* that is heavy, and the abuses of the trade that are slight in degree. Here, the State is the gainer. The explanation is that the capital sunk in the first instance on the part of the eastern salt traders being relatively small, their profits are

very considerable; whilst, on the other hand, the Szech'wan traders are exposed to a heavy outlay of capital in the first purchase of the salt. The Provincial Government of Szech'wan levies, besides, *li k'o* to the amount of 10 or 15 cash per catty, and at I-ch'ang (in Hupeh) another levy of the like amount takes place, so that Szech'wan pays *li k'o* of about 30 cash per catty. The demands incident to the province of Hupeh for annual contingents of funds to Peking and other provinces, and the military expenditure within the province itself, as well as numerous contingents drawn from the Szech'wan Exchequer, amounting altogether to more than Taels 2,000,000, are all assessed upon the revenue derived from the *li k'o* on Szech'wan salt. Were the advice of the Censor Chow to be taken, and the whole of Hu Kwang region to be restored to the eastern salt traders for supply, the 770,000 *yin* per annum, which is their regulation limit (the *yin* of the Liang Hwai area being of 600 catties each) would yield at the utmost but Tls. 1,600,000 or Taels 1,700,000 per annum; whereas the Szech'wan salt, disposed of to the amount of about 160,000 *yin*, yields a revenue of more than Tls. 2,000,000. Six reasons against wanton interference with the Szech'wan salt trade were set forth in detail in 1869 by Li Hung-chang, when Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces; and it is prayed that the system may continue to be maintained intact. (For rescript, see *Gazette* of June 27.)

(5) Wên-yih, Manchu Commander-in-chief at Foochow, memorializes, reporting his assumption of the seal of office as acting Governor-General of Min-chêh, on the 21st May, on the departure of Li Honien for Peking.

July 7th.—(1) Ts'ung-shih, Military Governor of Shêngking, reports the steps taken in the case of a captain of the Manchu troops guarding the Imperial Mausolea near Moukden, named San-yin-na, who has committed the offence, heretofore so common, of arrogating to himself judicial functions and imprisoning and torturing persons over whom he had no authority. By rescript in reply, sanction is given for the degradation of the offender and his being placed on trial.

(2) P'êng Ts'u-han, commander-in-chief of the naval forces of Fuhkien, reports himself from Amoy as temporarily invalidated in consequence of a visit he recently paid, at the request of the provincial government, to the North-east coast of Formosa. From Sawo he proceeded some distance into the interior, finding

that, of the settlers in this unwholesome region, only natives of Kwangtung and Fuhkien, men of strong constitution to boot, succeed as a rule in acclimatizing themselves. Of those from other parts of China, 70 or 80 per cent. fall ill. The memorialist himself was shortly attacked with symptoms of fulness in the head, prostration of strength, and loss of appetite. After his return to Amoy, he found his diaphragm congested, and treatment has as yet been unavailing. His medical adviser diagnoses his complaint as arising from an internal accumulation of malarial humours, and an affection, externally, by chills. Sanction is solicited accordingly to a month's congé, which the memorialist proposes devoting to medical treatment.

July 8th.—(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes with reference to the measures proposed for relief during the impending scarcity; and requests permission to detain for issue in the province, the maize which is at present on its way from Shantung and Manchuria to Peking.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 30th June.

(2 and 3) Memorials from the office of Gendarmerie, forwarding two appeal cases. The first is from a native of Hupeh, who complains of the murder of his nephew by some fellow villagers, in 1873. Attempts to obtain justice from the provincial tribunals have been fruitless. The second is from natives of Fêng-t'ien, who complain against certain persons whose names are given, for the murder of two of their relatives whom they attacked and robbed of their horses on the road, killing one of the victims on the spot and mortally wounding the other.

July 9th. — (Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported a fall of rain at Peking, to the degree of profound saturation.

(1) A decree of thanksgiving for the rain which has at length fallen at Peking. In token of gratitude for this manifestation of the bounty of the Supreme, sacrificial services are to be performed at the State temples.

(2) A decree referring to the "iron tablet," which has been brought to Peking from the temple of the Dragon God at Han-tan, in Chihli, and lodged in the Ta Kwang Ming temple, as a means of invoking rain. The fall which has now been vouchsafed, calls for an expression of reverent gratitude. A title of honour, consisting in the characters *Ling ying chao yeo shêng tsing* (the Sacred Well which affords supernatural answer to prayer, and

sheds the light of assistance upon those who stand in need), is conferred upon the reservoir in which the iron tablet habitually reposes, and an inscription to this effect is ordered to be prepared by the proper office. (N.B.—For an account of the "iron tablet," see the *North-China Daily News* of 29th May.)

July 10th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Wên-yih, Tartar General and acting Governor-General at Foochow, who has exposed certain irregularities in the administration of the salt revenue system, in the shape of warrants granted to the contractors for the monopoly in the west of Fuhkien, through the operation of which an annual loss in the shape of duty and *lekin* (課厘 *kó-li*), amounting to Tael 26,000, has accrued to the revenue. The person chiefly responsible for this loss is the late Salt Comptroller, Luh Sin-yüan, who obtained on application the sanction of the Governor-General Li Ho-nien to the arrangement in favour of the salt contractors; but the actual incumbent of the post, Lu Sze-kieh, is also held to be culpable, inasmuch as he did not discover the irregularity immediately on his return to duty, and notwithstanding the fact that he has voluntarily come forward to disclose the state of affairs. The three officials named are handed to the Board for the determination of the penalty appropriate in each of their cases.

(2) Kwang-show, president of the Board of War, memorializes on the present calamitous state of affairs, in connection with the drought of the season, and entreats that the official body throughout the Empire be exhorted to cultivate a higher degree of moral rectitude, as a means of inviting a state of concord with the heavenly powers and of thus contributing to relieve the difficulties which at present exist. It was held of old, he represents, that in times of unseasonable rain or drought, the ministers of the Empire should confess themselves to blame; and this because one principle alike actuates the Sovereign and his servants, who should be moved, in their several stations, by one common sentiment of reverence. It is not fitting that the burthen of care and anxiety should be wholly left to the Sovereign to bear, whilst the ministers beneath him enjoy ease undisturbed. At the present moment, in the fact that the western marches are unquiet, the revenue is in a state of deficiency, and the people are hampered in their means of livelihood, sufficient cause for anxiety already exists; whilst the protracted

drought, which has lasted now since the beginning of the year, affords an even greater cause of solicitude, by day and night, to the breast of His Majesty. It behoves the ministers of the Sovereign, therefore, in fulfilment of their duty to their Imperial master, to strive in the cultivation of moral rectitude, endeavouring by united reverent efforts to fulfil the maxim that Heaven's will is performed by truthful effort, not by mere outward show. It is besought that the official body throughout the Empire may be exhorted to put away the prevailing vices of the time, in the shape of supineness, routine, and absolute neglect of duty.—For rescript, see *Gazette* of 2nd inst.

July 11th.—(1 and 2) Memorials from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, and Liu Tien, his colleague for the conduct of the Western campaign, with reference to certain judicial cases pending in the province of Kansuh. The cases in question are those of criminals condemned to death for murder before the issue of a decree dated the 29th June 1874, by which (in honour of the Empress Mother's 40th birthday), the issue of the autumnal death-warrants, both at Peking and in the provinces, was ordered to be suspended for the year, notwithstanding that the assizes for the revision of sentences were to proceed as usual. A further postponement of execution took place in 1875 (owing to the accession of the new Emperor to the throne.) A summary of the case of one individual is given, who had murdered a female servant employed in the same house with himself, on her refusing to continue relations of illicit intimacy which had begun between the two; and it is represented that his case does not admit of leniency in the way of commutation. The present memorials are forwarded by Liu Tien, the Governor-General Tso himself having left his official post at Lan-chow Fu and proceeded toward the scene of military operations.

(3) K'ing-ch'un and Kw'ei-ch'ang, the Manchu commandants in Ch'ahar (Inner Mongolia), report that they have received a pressing application from the Military Governor at Uliasutai for the despatch to that place of the whole of the supplies of provisions for the garrison due for the current year, since, owing to difficulties in the way of transport, the rations of the soldiery constantly run short at present. They had accordingly caused the proper authorities to hire bullock carts, to the number of 1,958, which have been loaded with 5,845 piculs of grain, and which have been despatched by the

traders' road from Kalgan to Uliasutai. The cost of transport amounts to Tls. 3.3 per picul, constituting a total of Tls. 19,288.5.

July 12th.—(1) The acting Governor-General and the Governor of Fuhkien memorialize reporting the disasters sustained in the neighbourhood of Foochow through unusually severe floods. The affluents of the river Min were swollen by heavy rains during the early part of the year, not a single day of fine weather having been experienced for months past; and the state of affairs was at length aggravated by a downpour at Foochow which lasted without any intermission from the 7th to the 10th of June. The swelling of the waters caused by this extraordinary rainfall, increased by unusually high tides, caused the suburbs of Foochow to be inundated to a depth varying from 8 or 10 to as much as 14 or 15 feet. Even at the highest elevation of the site, in the neighbourhood of the North gate, the water lay a couple of feet in depth. Immense suffering was the inevitable consequence among the population, for whose relief, however, the authorities bestirred themselves actively. Boats were employed to go to the rescue, and ladders were let down from the walls to enable the denizens of the suburbs to clamber to a place of safety. Lodging was given them in the gate towers and temples. Biscuit and other provisions were distributed among the homeless and destitute multitude. The flood finally began to abate on the 15th of June; but many of those whose dwellings had been destroyed continue to lodge temporarily on the city wall. Precedents for the disbursement of Government funds in relief to the distressed householders are adduced under similar circumstances in 1834 and 1844, and sanction for the outlay incurred is requested accordingly. The present memorial is sent by a special steamer to Shanghai, and the District Magistrate there is requested to have it forwarded to Peking at the rate of 400 *li* per diem.

July 13th.—(1-3) Decrees appointing Literary Examiners for the Examinations about to be held in Kansuh, Hunan, and Szech'wan.

(2) Li Han-chang, in a supplementary Memorial, adverts to his report sent forward some time ago from Yunnan Fu, in which he stated that on receiving the appointment of Governor-General of Szech'wan, he had caused a new stamp to be engraved on wood for use in connection with his mission of enquiry (into the Moumou outrage)—see *Gazette* of April 3rd. He represents that, as he is now at

his native place, attending to the restoration of his health, and has no public business to deal with, it is his intention after despatching the present memorial to destroy the temporary seal in question. Any documents he may hereafter have to lay before the Throne, he will stamp with the seal of the local authority within whose jurisdiction he may be staying. —Rescript: It is noted.

July 14th.—(1) Ts'ung-shih, Governor-General of Shêng-king, suggests the abolition of a very unpopular tax called 日捐. This is a daily contribution of a certain number of *cash* levied from every shopkeeper, the amount varying from 1,500 *cash* for a large shop, to 20 or 30 *cash* for a small shop. This tax was instituted in the 6th year of Hsien Fêng, (1856) at the same time with the *lekin* tax, and was more or less an experimental impost. The memorialist has made careful enquiries, and finds that it is not only a most unpopular tax, but it also bears very hardly upon those who have to pay it. Whether his business be good or not, every day each shopkeeper has to pay this fixed sum, and the result is that the large shops are gradually decreasing in number, the owners finding it more advantageous to close them and open small ones, in order to avoid the tax. It was estimated that it would realise annually a revenue of 400,000 *tiao* (a string of 1,000 local *cash*), but of late only 240,000 *tiao* have been collected. By *lekin*, on the other hand, a yearly revenue of over a million *tiao* is obtained, and although the memorialist will not go so far as to say that by the abolition of the shop tax, the *lekin* will be increased, still, until it is abolished, the *lekin* tax cannot be properly adjusted. —Rescript: Let it be as requested.

July 15th.—(1) A Decree ordering the Board of Punishments to investigate a charge brought by one Ting Yung-fu, a native of the Shun-t'ien Prefecture, against Ch'ên Fu, servant of the Censor Lung-kwang, whom he accuses of having acted in collusion with one Ting Jê-kung, to get his father put in prison on a false charge, where he died.

(2) Ming-ch'un reports the death of Wên-lin, Resident at Hami. The deceased officer had applied for a month's leave in the spring of the year, being at the time in failing health, and died some days afterwards, placing in the memorialist's hands before he died, his 遺摺 or testamentary memorial. The memorialist gives a sketch of the deceased officer's career, showing how he distinguished himself in operations against the rebels on many

occasions, at Urumtsi, Hami, and elsewhere, and concludes with a request that similar posthumous honors may be conferred upon him to those granted to a Lieutenant-General of a Banner Corps who has distinguished himself in the field. The decree has been recorded.

(3) A memorial from Ming-ch'un, Assistant-Resident at Hami, praying for funds. He is apprehensive lest the death of Wên-lin should cause the high authorities of Shantung, Shansi and Honan to be remiss in forwarding the contributions due from them. He begs they may be instructed to lose no time in sending these.

(4) Yung-ts'üan 榮全 Military Governor of Ili, and Ying-lien, report the death of Oêrh-ken-pa-t'u, officer in command at So-lun.

(5) Yung-ts'üan memorialises beseeching the speedy appointment of a successor to relieve him in his present post. Since his return from the Russian territory and the surveying expedition in which he was engaged for several years, during which time he was exposed to alternations of heat and cold, he has suffered from constant rheumatic pains, eruptions on his face, and general debility.—Rescript: Let Yung-ts'üan take one month's leave. Should any question of importance arise, let him as before give his earnest attention to it.

(6) Shên Pao-chêng memorialises describing the difficulty that has been experienced this year in getting the grain junks up the canal, owing to the want of water, which in one spot was not more than a few inches in depth. The heavy rains somewhat increased the depth, and with great difficulty, and heavy expense, smaller boats having to be hired, the grain has been brought as far as the borders of Shantung. Whether it will be possible to take it higher is problematical. The Governor-General complains that such a condition of things has never been known in the history of grain transport. The boats were detained over forty days in one place, and when at last they did move, it was only with an enormous expenditure of labour that they made a little more than a *li* a day.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

July 16th.—(1) The Commandant at Jêh-ho reports the trial and sentence of certain persons who feloniously entered the Imperial Hunting Park 圍場 to slaughter the animals preserved there, and killed and wounded some of the officers and soldiers sent to arrest them.

July 17th.—(1) A memorial from Yü Siao-t'uan and Yün K'ing-jui, officers in charge of the Imperial Mausolea, reporting that on the night of the 2nd July, during a violent thunderstorm accompanied by heavy wind and rain, the large archway in front of the Mausoleum entitled the Hiao-ling, was struck by lightning, and the upper portion of it burnt and destroyed. The memorialists have made careful enquiries, and have no doubt whatever that the injury was caused by lightning, still, as they were in charge of the Tombs, and were unable at once to extinguish the fire, they deserve punishment. They pray therefore that they may be relegated to the proper yamên for punishment.

(2) A memorial by the same officers, setting forth at some length the disadvantage under which the officers on duty at the Imperial Mausolea labour by being compelled to accept a monetary commutation in lieu of the rice to which they are entitled as a portion of their salaries. Officers were sent regularly to T'ungchow to take delivery of this rice, until the year 1875, when owing to certain, unavoidable causes, it was temporarily discontinued. They pray that the amount of grain to which these officials are entitled may again be issued to them.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

(3) Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, submits a list of officers upon whom he requests reward may be conferred, they having foregone the anti-extortion allowance (*yang lien*) to which they were entitled. By regulations drawn up in the year 1864, it was enacted that officers who accepted exchequer notes in lieu of the anti-extortion allowance due to them, should, under certain conditions, have honorary rewards conferred upon them. Referred to the Board of Revenue.

(4) Wu Yuan-ping forwards a comparative statement of duties collected at the four Customs Barriers of Yangchow, for the 1st year of Kwangsü (1875). The whole of this amount has been devoted to military expenditure, payment of salaries, &c. The total still remains smaller than that of the three former periods, but this is to be accounted for by the fact that since the opening of the coast and rivers to foreign trade, the greater part of the staple products of the North and South have been carried in steamers and sailing vessels, while as for opium, and other imports and exports, in the first instance somewhat scarce, once the foreign merchant comes in and carries them under transit pass, none of the regular duties can be levied upon them at the various barriers

along the route. All that can be done is to inspect the goods and allow them free passage. On the other hand, the sixty-second quarterly instalment of the transit duties collected at the Foreign Customs at Chinkiang amounts to seventy-one thousand several hundred taels. Thus, on the one side there is a surplus, and on the other a deficiency which, for the various causes assigned, no amount of energy on the part of the Chinese collectorate is able to control.

(1) July 18th.—A memorial by Yü-luh, Governor of An Hui, reporting the rehearing of an appeal case of long standing. Tan T'ai-ch'in, the defendant, resided in the district of Ting-yuan, in the same tithing with a woman named Hwoh. During the depredations of the *Nien-fei*, the inhabitants of the district organised a corps of militia for their own protection, and Tan Siao-lao-êrh, one of Tan J'ai-ch'in's clansmen, organised a company consisting of members of the clan, of which he constituted himself the head. On the approach of the rebels, he and his company went over to them, and Tan Siao-lao-êrh thought this a fitting opportunity to demand from the woman Hwoh her daughter, whom he wished to make his concubine. The woman Hwoh refused, whereupon he proceeded to attempt to carry her off by force. The attacking party were however beaten off, and Tan Siao-lao-êrh was killed. This was the origin of a feud between the Tan and Hwoh clans, which lasted for many years, the Tan clan on frequent occasions avenging themselves by attacking the woman Hwoh; killing her nephew at one time; abducting her sister-in-law at another; and finally driving her away altogether, when they took possession of her property. When order was restored in the district, the Tan clan returned to their allegiance, and a nephew of the woman Hwoh came back to look after the land she had lost, but he ran foul of the Tan clan, and they killed him.—With this case is mixed up another, in which the appellant, a woman called Sung, is also the victim of a family feud. The memorialist describes at great length the steps that have been taken to effect an equitable settlement of both cases, and the penalties that have been inflicted on the guilty parties.

July 19th.—(1) A Decree. Chang Tung, late Magistrate of Jêhol, now deprived of his post, during his tenure of office at the three Magistracies of Luan-p'ing, Ch'ao-yang, and Fêng-ning, having shewn deficiencies in the monies to be rendered by

him, amounting to over Taels 3,200, he has been repeatedly allowed a fixed time within which to make good this amount, but has not yet done so. Let Jullien confiscate all the property or money he may have at his temporary place of residence, or within his jurisdiction, in satisfaction of this debt; and let Wu Yuan-ping (Governor of Kiangsu) seize any family property he may possess at his native place.

(2) Wên-pin, Governor-General of the grain transport, forwards a list of monies subscribed by graduates before the closing of the Ch'ing-huai office 清淮 for the receipt of public subscriptions (捐局), and requests that the usual rewards may be conferred upon the subscribers. This office was closed at the memorialist's recommendation, but, prior to its closing, there were certain amounts subscribed, of which he requests honourable notice may be taken. Then follows an explanation of the rate at which cash and *ch'ao* (鈔), or government notes, were reckoned at different times, concluding with a list of the subscriptions above alluded to, and their equivalent value in taels.

(3) Wên Yih, Acting Governor-General of Min-Cheh, reports the result of enquiries he has made into certain unauthorised changes in the Salt Regulations of the Province, whereby a loss to the Revenue is entailed. The late Salt Commissioner Lu Sin-yüan took upon himself to allow the issue of certain Permits called 耗票, or "Waste Notes," to salt merchants; these waste notes giving them the privilege of taking out, free of *lekin* and other taxes, twenty per cent. of the whole amount for which they had obtained licences. The change was authorised in a most careless and informal way by the late Governor-General, and the system has been pursued by the present Salt Commissioner. The memorialist objects to the practice as being irregular, and at the same time entailing a serious loss of Revenue, which just at this time, when Yuan Pao-hêng (Vice-President of the Board of Revenue) is urging the raising of the price of salt, is most inappropriate.

(4) A memorial from Wên-pin (Governor-General of Grain Transport) objecting to the appointment of Chang Ts'ung-lung to the post of Brigadier-General of T'êng Yüeh (Momein), and requesting that he may be retained in his present post, as his services cannot well be dispensed with. —Rescript: Let it be as requested.

July 20th.—(1) A Decree. K'wei-ling and Kwei-ch'ing memorialise that they have, in obedience to commands, investigated the circumstances attending the injury to the great archway at the Imperial Mausolea. They have made careful measurements, and now submit a memorandum of the repairs required. Let Kwei-ling and Kwei-ch'ing at once reverently and carefully execute the repairs enumerated in their list.

(2) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, recommends an officer to the post vacated by Têng Yu-têh, a Lieut.-Colonel, who has been transferred to the post of Brigadier-General at 昭通, in Yünnan. He also recommends several other minor military promotions and transfers.

(3) The Court of Censorate memorialise, presenting a petition lodged by a Mongol woman named Wu, who complains that her father and mother, and her paternal uncle and his wife, have been murdered by her cousin T'u-la-pa-t'u, who seized all her father's property, and eventually attempted to take her life, but she escaped, with the loss of all her jewellery and ornaments. She had failed in obtaining justice at Jêhol, and other places at which she had lodged a complaint.—Referred in the usual manner.

(4) Wang Wên-shao, Governor of Hunan, requests that four officers who have been wounded at different times in action, may be exempted from horsemanship and archery examinations.—Granted by rescript.

July 21st.—Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, and his colleague, the Governor K'ing-yü, memorialize with reference to the regulations for the conduct of official business which the new system of administration lately introduced in Manchuria renders necessary. The Military Governor (*tsiang-kün*) having now been invested with the title and attributes of a Governor-General (*tsung-tuh*), and the *Fu-yin* having been placed on the footing of a provincial Governor, it is remarked that, in all cases where officers of these respective ranks are associated elsewhere, although they are placed (jointly) in supreme control of the affairs of government, each of the two high functionaries has at the same time his special attributes. For the future, in all questions relating to the military organization, control of the forces, army supplies, frontier affairs, and important criminal cases such as a brigandage or rebellion, the Governor-General will draught the memorials addressed to the Throne, and the Governor will simply

join his name to the report. In matters relating to the movements of the civil service and recommendations or censure upon individual officers, and in all returns relating to judicial and revenue administration, the rainfall, and the prices of grain, the Governor will draught the memorial and the Governor-General follow suit. Other regulations are also laid down for the more accurate definition of the powers of the Taotaihip lately constituted at Moukden, and of local civilian functionaries.

July 22nd.—No documents of importance.

July 23rd.—(1) A Decree based upon a report from the Board of Civil Office, on the case of the officials of the government of Fuhkien who have been denounced for irregularities in connection with the issue of licenses to the salt-trade contractors. (See *Gazette* of 10th instant.) The late acting Comptroller of the Gabelle, Luh Sin-yüan, is sentenced to summary dismissal from his rank in the public service. The Governor-General, Li Ho-nien, who sanctioned his proceedings, is degraded two steps of rank, but left in his post. The Comptroller Lu Sze-kieh, who failed to denounce the shortcoming immediately upon his return to his post, is fined two years' official salary; but both he and the Governor-General are allowed to plead a set-off against their penalties (in the shape of any record they may have for merit against their names.)

(2) A Decree. Liu Ch'ang-yao (Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow), has memorialized Us requesting that a Brigadier-General who has been removed to a post elsewhere may be relieved of his appointment and retained *pro tem.* in Yünnan. Whereas Yang Yü-k'o, acting General-in-chief in Yünnan, who has been transferred to the post of Brigadier-General of the Yeo-kiang command in Kwangsi, has now proceeded at the head of a force to operate against the train-bands who are committing disturbances in T'êng yüeh (Momein), and is unable to proceed at once to his post, and whereas it is not expedient that the post to which he has been appointed should continue for a length of time unfilled, We command that he do vacate the said appointment, and be retained provisionally in Yünnan. We charge him with the responsibility of dealing satisfactorily with the affairs on the T'êng-yüeh frontier, to the end that they be brought to a speedy conclusion.

July 24th.—A memorial from the Court of Censorate reporting an appeal case, in which the petitioner Ting Jung-ju, a native

of the Shun-t'ien prefecture, complains that one Ting Te-kung, having endeavoured without success to extort money from petitioner's father, conspired with the servant of a member of the Censorate to get his father thrown into prison, where he died.

(2) Ying-kuei reports the following appeal case:—The petitioner, Lo Yün-p'êng, is a native of the Ch'ü-chow district in the Province of Chihli, and a farmer by calling. One Li Pu-yün, a military graduate, had led petitioner's brother astray, and gambled with him, thus incurring the displeasure of petitioner's father, who in consequence became an object of hatred to Li Pu-yün and the victim of his machinations. First, some men in custody on a charge of theft were bribed to implicate petitioner's father. The charge was, however, disproved upon investigation, and Li Pu-yün lost his military degree. Then a false charge was brought against petitioner's brother, and his father was imprisoned and so tortured that he died; while his house was burnt to the ground, his younger brother wounded, and his grandfather worried to death.

(3) Hsi-mêng-k'o-si-k'o reports at great length the details of a brutal case of murder near Kirin. The whole of the inmates of one household, consisting of three women and two young children, were murdered by one T'ang Fu-yu and certain others not in custody. T'ang Fu-yu had formerly had illicit intercourse with two of the women, who had however latterly repelled his advances. This enraged him, and he took advantage of the absence of the husband of one of the women, the owner of the house, to break into it with four or five associates and murder all the inmates. T'ang Fu-yu, who for some time persistently desired his guilt, has died in prison, and the other criminals, with one exception, are still at large. The memorialist denounces the sub-Prefect, who is responsible for their arrest.—Rescript: Referred to the proper Board.

July 25th.—(1) and (2) Decrees, ordering the retirement or dismissal of a number of District Magistrates and military officials, whose names are enumerated in a long list, denounced by Li K'uen-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang Provinces, for incompetency, incapacity, or official mismanagement.

(3) A Decree ordering the dismissal of several officers denounced by Pao Yuan-shên, Governor of Shansi.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by two long memorials from the Governor of Honan, reporting the rehearing of two appeal cases, and the sentence awarded in each instance.

July 26th.—(1) A Decree ordering the immediate arrest and punishment of Ch'ang-ts'un, a member of the 馬甲 or armoured cavalry force, who surreptitiously left the capital and went to the Ch'ien-an district in the province of Chih-li, where he claimed the ownership of a piece of land, sending a deputy to lodge a complaint with respect to it; paid an official call on the magistrate; and issued proclamations in which he gave himself out to be an Imperial Commissioner engaged on a secret mission of enquiry. The Manchu captain who by his neglect is responsible for his absence, is to be handed over to the Board of Punishments and rigorously examined.

(2) A Decree conferring posthumous honours on P'ang Chung-lu, formerly President of the Board of Punishments, who had retired from office to go through the prescribed period of mourning for a parent. He rose from Han-lin, or member of the Imperial Academy, through all the Presidencies of the Lower Courts, to the post he last held, and was a man of exceptional learning and the strictest integrity. His Majesty was greatly grieved or receiving the news of his death.

(3) A Decree ordering an immediate investigation into certain alleged deductions and squeezes in the monies issued by the Treasury officers of the Imperial Household.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial which is not finished, from Si-mêng-k'o-si-k'o, reporting the capture and execution of sixty-three mounted banditti, and giving an abstract of the depositions made by them.

July 27th.—(1) A Decree confirming the penalties it is proposed by the Mongolian Superintendency to inflict upon Si-li-patza-êrh, a Mongol Prince of the second rank, who has been guilty of repeated acts of robbery, has received stolen property, and behaved with great impropriety when summoned to account for his misdemeanours.

(2) The conclusion of Si-mêng-k'o-si-k'o's memorial, the first portion of which is published in the *Gazette* of the 26th.

July 28th.—Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chih-li, memorializes reporting the proceedings taken in the case of a late clerk in the yamên of the Taotai of Tientsin, named Chang Kien, who had combined, some years ago, with a number of his associates for the purpose of effecting embezzlement of the public funds under his control. By an elaborate falsification of the accounts he had succeeded in

abstracting without immediate detection the sum of Taels 7,000, a portion of which was divided among his accomplices, whilst with the remainder the chief delinquent purchased, under an assumed name, the office of assistant department Magistrate in Kweichow. On his frauds being discovered, a decree was obtained enjoining his arrest; and having been taken into custody in that province, he is now reported to have died in prison. His accomplices have been put on trial, and sentenced according to law.

July 29th.—(Court Circular.) Kwei-fêng, assistant Resident in Tibet, requested this day audience of leave on his departure.

Chih-kang, Resident at K'urun (Urga), reports that on the expiry of his sick leave, recently extended, he is about to discharge the duty incumbent upon him of proceeding to K'ia-k'êh-t'u (Kiachta), to inspect the garrison there, and to investigate at the same time the condition of the local trading community and of the trade carried on with the Russians at that place. This undertaking he carries into effect, notwithstanding the enfeebled state of his health.

July 30th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial by Li Wên-min, acting-Governor of Kiangsi, who has reported on the measures taken for the relief of the sufferers by floods in that province. Approval is signified to the steps that have been taken in this respect.

(2) The high authorities at Canton jointly memorialize reporting the despatch of remittances from the provincial revenues of Kwangtung on behalf of the amounts ordered to be sent, for the current year, in aid of the expenditure at Peking and elsewhere. From the revenue of the foreign maritime Customs a sum of Tls. 200,000 has been allotted toward the pay of the troops at Peking, together with Tls. 60,000 charged upon the same source of revenue in its modern augmentation. The regular annual payment of Tls. 300,000 to the Household treasury has also to be furnished from the same quarter. Installments have been forwarded by means of loans obtained from the local native bankers, to be repaid as money comes in. It is observed that the Customs' revenue is declining and unequal to the demands upon it.

(3) The Governor of Chêhkiang memorializes with reference to the proposal lately advanced by Yüan Pao-hêng (whilst Vice-President of the Board of Revenue) for the temporary addition of two cash per catty to the cost price of salt, to be charged

against the monopolists or licensees, as a means of increasing the revenue from this source. The same proposal, it is represented, was advanced by Yüan Pao-hêng in 1870, when, on the impossibility of realizing it under the conditions prevailing in Chêhkiang being made clear, it was negatived by the Board of Revenue. The state of the case as it at present exists is now dwelt upon, and it is represented that the producing and consuming area of Chêhkiang is far from having recovered its pristine condition since the rebellion. The amount of salt which the regulations heretofore prescribed as the annual consumption in the Chêhkiang area, was 805,000 and odd *yin* (of 400 catties each); but after the rebellion, the amount did not exceed 30 or 40 per cent. of the regulation total. Notwithstanding the utmost efforts, the revenue accruing of late years from this source has been in a state of deficiency. The utmost amount of revenue, under all heads, yielded per *yin* is 1 *Tael* 7 *mace* 4 *candareens*; and where the taxation is lighter, it amounts to but little over 1 *Tael* per *yin*. To add 800 *cash* to this amount, which would be the result of increasing the cost price by 2 *cash* per catty, is pronounced to be practically impossible. In Yüan Pao-hêng's memorial it is represented that if the *yin* of salt throughout the Empire were made uniformly to amount to 400 catties each, the addition of 2 *cash* per catty would bring in an amount of 5,600,000 strings of *cash*, or say in silver, Tls. 3,000,000; but the Governor disputes this conclusion. In Chêhkiang, he states, the amount for which the monopolists at present hold themselves responsible is 340,000 *yin* per annum, the increased yield upon which would only give a sum of Tls. 150,000; and he doubts whether the trade is equal to supporting the augmentation on the assessed prime cost. He therefore pronounces the scheme impracticable.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(4) The Governor of Chêhkiang reports upon the establishment of a House of Detention for witnesses held in custody pending trial, in order to obviate on their behalf the suffering entailed by imprisonment in the common jails. A superintendent of the rank of district Magistrate resides on the premises for the purpose of watching over the due execution of the regulations; and in the two years that have elapsed since the institution of the system, not a single individual has died from privation. The working expenses amount to about \$100 per mensem, which is

provided by the interest on a fund lodged on deposit for this purpose.

July 31st.—(1) The Military Governor of Hehlung Kiang memorializes reporting the murder by a lunatic of his mother, whom he struck on the head with his iron chain whilst she was supplying him with food. After due investigation, the guilty person has been sentenced in accordance with law to be "sliced to death" (*ling ch'e*), and this sentence has been carried into effect.

Aug. 1st.—(1) A decree commanding that a donation of one month's pay and allowances be issued to the troops, both Manchu and Chinese, of the garrison of Peking, in consideration of the dearth of provisions owing to the drought that has lately prevailed.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Szech'wan, Wên-kêh, memorializes reporting the re-hearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking by a decree dated February 1st, 1874. A widow named Li Sû-she had complained against her nephew for having caused the death of her husband. The charge is proved to be unfounded, and the complainant is sentenced to the penalty of 80 blows, subject to pecuniary commutation on the ground of her sex.

(3) The Governor of Anhwei memorializes reporting the purchase and despatch to Peking of the annual supply of hemp for the use of the Board of Works, for which the provincial government is answerable by regulation. The quantity provided is 34,158 catties, at the cost of 3 *mace* per catty.

Aug. 2nd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the supervising censors, K'ing-show and his colleagues, who have requested that the relief agencies for the distribution of food to the poor be opened at an earlier period of the year than usual. In consequence of the drought that has been experienced throughout the spring and earlier part of the summer, and notwithstanding the plentiful rains which were at length experienced, both the first and the second crop will be short, and the price of food will be high. In commiseration for the exigencies of the poorer classes, it is decreed that the relief-agencies be opened three months earlier than usual, and the 1st day of the 7th moon is fixed upon for this purpose. The six agencies require in all 300 piculs of millet per mensem, and this quantity is to be issued regularly as an Imperial donation.

(2) Liu Kw'ên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, memorializes asking sanction for the substantive appointment of

Colonel Shang Ch'ang-mow, who has acted for seven years in the capacity of Military Secretary (*chung-kun*) to the Governor-General, to the post in question.

(3-4) Memorials from Liu Kw'ên-yih, denouncing certain corrupt and incapable district magistrates, sanction for whose removal and degradation, respectively, is applied for.

Aug. 3rd.—No documents of importance.

Aug. 4th.—(1) A decree based upon a report from T'o-lun-pu, the Imperial Resident at Kobdo, and his colleagues, who have reported upon the services rendered by the civil and military officials engaged in recent military operations against the Dungan Insurgents (回匪 Mahommedan rebels.) The report is to the effect, that on an incursion having been made in the 3rd moon of the present year (April last) by the Mahommedan insurgents of Urumtsi into the region of Shomuh-cha-kia, passing by way of Bolun Tokhoi 布倫托海 (a trading station on the route between Manas and Ili), a force was sent by T'o-lun-pu to attack the invaders, who were successfully driven back and compelled to retire beyond the limits of the Kobdo territory. A list of promotions and honours, extending to nine pages of the *Gazette*, here follows. No loss of life is mentioned.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censorate, forwarding a renewed appeal lodged by a native of Hupeli named K'ow Yung fuh, who has complained against the Magistrate of the Chung-siang district for neglecting to inquire into a charge of murder which was referred back to the province on appeal lodged in 1872. Instead of taking proceedings against the actual culprit, it is alleged he has endeavoured to coerce the complainant into a composition of the case. The provincial government is commanded to institute a stringent inquiry into the affair.

(3) The Board of Civil Office memorializes submitting its decision on the penalties that should be inflicted upon the authorities of the province of Fuhkien for their illegal action in the matter of licenses granted free of duty to the provincial salt monopolists.—Sanctioned by rescript already published.

(4) Yung-ts'üan, Military Governor of Ili, and Ying-lien, Deputy Governor at Tarbagatal, report that a Djassak Taidji (noble) of the Turguts has unlawfully called in certain Tangutan lamas to hold a mass or service of incantation for the cure of disease, and resisted the inquiry

instituted and attempts made to apprehend the guilty parties. It is stated that a petition had been delivered to Ying-lien by Cherin Rabdan, the Pu-yen-t'u Prince of the Turguts, giving the following particulars:—It had come to his knowledge that the Djassak Taidji named T'up'sin K'êshk'êh had in his house two unshaven Tangut lamas, with a novice, who had performed incantations (*nien-king*) at which they had allowed no one to be present, and had manufactured [the figure of] a demon in green paste, beside which they had produced a foul smelling compound of blood, which they had cast into a fire to be consumed. The prince hereupon despatched a party of 30 men of his banner to proceed, on the 27th February last, to apprehend these persons; but the Djassak concealed the delinquents and not only refused to allow them to be seen, but also summoned together a number of men of his banner, who attacked the prince's men with staves, swords, and spears, and wounded some of their number. The prince's emissaries, however, succeeded in carrying off the Tangutan novice and two of the Djassak's retainers, together with some of the articles used in the incantation. They farther learnt that the Tangutan lamas had heretofore held an incantation out of the Black Books (*nien hêh king*) at the house of another Taidji. After receiving the foregoing report, a statement was likewise received from the Djassak himself, complaining of an attack having been made on his house by the prince's men, who carried off several hundred taels of silver beside the prisoners. He was having a mass performed in his house for the recovery of a sick child; and he was at a loss to account for the tyrannical proceedings taken by the prince. The prisoners and witnesses were next examined by the Military Secretariat, and the depositions are given seriatim. One of the Tangutan lamas, aged 63, states that having been called to the Djassak's abode from a temple on the A-lê-tai mountain, where he was staying whilst on his way to Tarbagatal from Lan-chow in Kansuh, he began holding services on the 13th February last, on which day he slaughtered a black goat and manufactured three human figures in paste. On the 23rd, the masses being completed, he carried the figures to a point on the south-east and consumed them by fire. Another deponent speaks of the blood of the goat having been carried into the house after the animal was slaughtered.—As a result of the

investigation and report, it is commanded by rescript that the offending Djassak be subjected to the appropriate penalty by decision of the Mongolian Superintendency. (Note. - The text of the above memorial is interesting, apart from the general tenour of its contents, as containing in the depositions translations (evidently) from Mongolian originals, in which a rough attempt is made to conform to the grammatical structure of the language from which the renderings are given.)

Aug. 5th.—(1) A decree based upon a report by Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, and his colleague K'i-tian, who have investigated the case of a military officer of the rank of captain in the province of Kirin, against whom a charge had been brought of harbouring banditti and keeping a gambling house. The latter charge having been substantiated, although the others have fallen through, the delinquent is cashiered and sentenced to transportation into penal servitude on the frontier.

(2) The Censor Chang Kwan-chun memorializes representing the block which exists in the civil service, owing to the facilities afforded by the purchase system for obtaining appointments, and submits a scheme under three heads for accelerating the flow of promotion by the legitimate channel. The most crying evil is that experienced in connection with secretaryships to the Boards, which is owing to the fact that the prices of appointments under the purchase system have been successively lowered until they are now barely one-tenth of the proper regulation amount. The lists are consequently so full that an expectant, instead of waiting seven or eight years, as was formerly the case, for an appointment, is now kept waiting it may be for 15 or 16 years. A variety of checks on the operation of the purchase system are urged as the remedy that should be adopted.

(3) The same Censor represents, in a supplementary memorial, that a grave abuse has lately come to his ears in connection with the disbursements made from the treasury of the Imperial Household. The secretaries, it is alleged, have usurped control of the pay department, and insist on an understanding about fees 使費 as the first preliminary on the presentation of all claims for payment. It is stated that 10 and even 20 per cent. is demanded on bills before payment is proceeded with. Conduct such as this, it is represented, can only entail dishonesty in the supplies and labour provided.—Rescript, ordering

an enquiry to be instituted, already published.

Aug. 6th.—A decree based upon a report from the Comptrollers of the Household, with reference to the charges brought against the pay department by the Censor Chang Kwan-chun (see yesterday's *Gazette*.) The Comptrollers declare that all payments are made after due consideration by themselves, and they deny that the malpractices alleged against the secretaries have any foundation in fact. They are commanded, hereupon, to use all vigilance in the discharge of their functions, and to denounce unsparingly any instance of malversation on the part of their subordinates.

Aug. 7th.—(Court Circular.) Chang Yün-k'ing, the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, reported his return to Peking after reverently conveying the Iron Tablet back to its own locality. (N.B.—The "Iron Tablet" is the object, supernaturally gifted with rain-compelling powers, of which mention is made in the *Gazette* of the 9th July.)

(1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by a native of Szech'wan, named Ts'ai Che-sien, complaining of the conduct of the provincial officials in dealing with a charge heretofore preferred by him concerning the alleged murder of his father, and referred back from Peking by a decree in February, 1874. The enquiry was placed by the Governor-General in the hands of two officials, who took up their lodging in a *kung kwan*, "admission to which was open to any one who had money" The accused person is reported to have bribed heavily; and justice has been persistently denied.

(2) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding the appeal of a native of Chihli named Tu Lao-urh, who complains of the murder of his sister and his two nephews by fellow villagers.—Referred in the usual manner.

Aug. 8th.—No documents of importance.

Aug. 9th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Board of Revenue, requesting that the proper officers be appointed to supervise the transportation of copper which is about to be sent forward from Yünnan. Under the system heretofore in vogue, copper in course of transportation from Yünnan was placed under the charge of officers of the rank of Financial or Judicial Commissioner, who were held responsible for its being safely and speedily sent forward. At present the experiment is being tried of sending copper from Yünnan by the sea-route to Peking, the first instalment to be sent forward this autumn; and the

Financial Commissioners of Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Kiangsi and Chihli are here-upon severally commanded to attend to all the necessary arrangements for the forwarding of the supplies expected, and to guard against theft and other malpractices. These orders are to hold good for three years from the date of receipt of the decree.

Aug. 10th.—(1) The Governor of Yunnan, Wên-kêh, temporarily in charge of the Governor-Generalship of Szech'wan, memorializes reporting that Ho Chung-ho, the acting Commander-in-chief in Szech'wan, who has been appointed to the command in chief in Yunnan, has informed him of the receipt of Imperial commands to proceed without delay to his post, adding, however, that he finds it indispensable to enlist a force of 500 Hunan braves to accompany him to his new station, for which purpose funds are required. The necessity is justified by the fact that the *t'i-tuh's* residence is at Ta-li Fu, the city which was but lately occupied by the rebel leader Tu Wên-siu 杜汶秀 (the chieftain of the Panthays), and is in direct communication with T'êng-yüeh (Momein) and the Burmese frontier, where the disbanded militia have not yet wholly reverted to agricultural pursuits, and a dense and heterogeneous population of barbarous tribes exists, whom to keep under control is a matter of essential importance. The acting Governor-General has provided from the provincial exchequer a sum of Tls. 2,800 as requested by Hu Chung-ho for immediate needs; and he will cause the monthly disbursements which are needful to be provided until the Commander-in-chief sets out on his journey.

(2) In a supplementary memorial, Wên-kêh reports the appointment of an officer named Hu Chun-ming to the command of the 500 Hunan braves enlisted by the *t'i-tuh* Hu Chung-ho for service in Yunnan as above stated.

(3) In a third memorial, Wên-kêh reports that T'ien Tsai-t'ien, the newly appointed Brigadier-General of the Ch'ung-k'ing command, had reached the provincial capital of Szech'wan, on the 22nd June last. He had been ordered to proceed forthwith to his post, to enable, Lien-ch'ang, the late incumbent, to take up the acting appointment of provincial Commander-in-chief.

August 11th.—(1) Li Wên-min, Financial Commissioner and acting-Governor of Kiangsi, reports the steps taken to afford relief in the districts which were inundated

in June last. The districts which suffered most were Nan-fêng, Nan-ch'ang, and Sin-kien, and in some localities the water is said to have risen to a height of 20 and 30 feet. The memorialist has despatched officers to distribute relief, and to ascertain more precisely the extent of the damage done, on receipt of whose reports a second memorial shall be submitted.

(2) The acting-Governor of Kiangsi reports the despatch of an officer in charge of Tls. 62,229; being the amount of commutation of the surplus rice contribution for the year 1874. The money is to be handed to the Superintendent of Granaries at T'ung Chow.

August 12th.—The Censor K'ing-show requests that the Government relief agencies, which by regulation are in ordinary years not opened until the first of the tenth moon, may this year be opened three months earlier, in order that numerous persons who find themselves unable to obtain food may have their wants relieved. He also prays that, in accordance with the precedent set in 1867, the Board of Revenue may be directed to issue rice to the relief depôts established by private charity outside the city.

(2) Ch'ang-keng, Judicial Commissioner in Kwang-si, reports having taken over the seals of his office on the 15th of June last.

(3) Chih-kang Resident at K'urun (Urga), reports having left his post on the 30th of June on a tour of inspection of the post stations as far as Kiachta. He found the garrisons proficient in their drill, and their weapons in good order. At Kiachta he looked into the state of Russian trade, and found the natives on friendly terms with the Russian merchants. All being quiet on the frontier, he returned to his post at Urga on the 10th July.

(4) A memorial from Wang Wên, Literary Chancellor in Hupeh, reporting the conclusion of the examinations in that province.

(5) Chih-kang and his colleague lay before the Throne their reasons for detaining an officer named Hwei-shêng, who, on his term of service in Urga being over, had been directed to return to his duties in the Mongolian Superintendency in Peking. In the Spring of last year a memorial was forwarded stating that the officer in question would not be allowed to leave until his accounts were clear. The Mongolian Superintendency has since written asking that he be immediately sent to take up his duties in that office, but, as the Memorialists point out, Hwei-shêng did not hand over charge of his

office as director of trade at Urga until April of this year, and certain accounts connected with the army still require to be cleared up. When all outstanding matters are made right, he will be directed to repair to the Mongolian Superintendency.

(6) Wêng T'ung-tsio, acting Governor-General of Hu-kwang, acknowledges receipt of an Imperial Decree communicating the purport of a Memorial from Li Hung-chang, setting forth a scheme for alleviating the distress caused by the drought in the province of Chihli. Wêng T'ung-tsio has circulated the Decree amongst his subordinates, and called upon all officers in charge of Customs stations, in obedience to its commands, to allow any boats containing grain purchased for conveyance to Chihli, to pass without let or hindrance. A proclamation has also been issued strictly forbidding dealers in grain to raise prices by withholding supplies. The writer fully recognizes the principle that one province should come to the assistance of another in time of need, but unfortunately the present necessity finds the Hupeh treasury empty. He, however, sets the example by contributing Tls. 5,000 out of his own pay, and the Financial and Judicial Commissioners, as well as the several *taotais*, prefects, and magistrates have undertaken to subscribe Tls. 25,000 more. This amount of Tls. 30,000 proceeds entirely from the officials themselves; the people have been laid under no sort of contribution. The money will be sent to the Governor of Shun-tien Fu, in Peking.

To the above, the Grand Council has received the following Decree:—"Let Wêng T'ung-tsio's action be taken into the most favourable consideration of the Board, and let the several amounts contributed by the other officers be communicated to the Board of Revenue, who will act according to precedent."

(7) Wêng T'ung-tsio, acting Governor-General of Hu-kwang, submits regulations for the payment of steamer freight on military stores. It appears that on a previous occasion the Board of War had refused to pass the Hupeh accounts for military supplies until the item "transport of ammunition," which had been given as "freight paid to steamers," was supported by a statement of the actual distance conveyed, weight of ammunition, etc; the amount allowed for conveyance being by regulation calculated at so much per 100 catties per mile. To this the acting Governor-General had replied that foreign warlike stores are not to be purchased at Hankow, and that

consequently he had to procure them from Shanghai, whence they were conveyed to Wuch'ang by steamer at current rates. This being the case, he had found it impossible to follow the regulations by charging freight according to weight and mileage. Steamer freight differed very little one way or the other from the regulation allowance, and he accordingly requested that he might be allowed to charge current rates. Upon this the Board of War observed that for the conveyance of war material in the interior a fixed allowance prevails. Steamers, it was true, had no regulation tariff, but certain rules could be proposed and adopted for future guidance. The Board therefore prayed that the acting Governor-General be directed to suggest rules, and meanwhile his accounts would not be passed. Wêng T'ung-tsio directed the Financial Commissioner and his colleagues, upon this, to look into the matter, and their report is that the steamer freight on one occasion was rather more, and on another rather less, than the regulation allowance, so that the difference is insignificant. Still the orders of the Board must be obeyed, and a rule is submitted for approval. By regulation, the allowance for water carriage is 1 candarin per 100 catties per *li*, with 5 candarins extra per 1,500 catties when going up-stream, together with something additional for extra provisions to boatmen. This makes something like 1 candarin 6 cash per 100 catties per *li*, and it is requested that this amount may be sanctioned as the regular scale of freight on future purchases of foreign munitions of war. Wêng T'ung-tsio supports the above proposal, and forwards a table of distances between Shanghai and Hankow. The Imperial Rescript is:—"Let the Board of War take notice."

August 13th.—(1) A Decree. Wên-yih, acting Governor-General at Foochow, and Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, pray that the Governor of Kweichow be directed to recover the sum of Tls. 2,390 from the family of Sung Kwei-fang, formerly Brigadier-General at Fuhning, in Fuh-kien, now deceased. The above sum is the balance of certain monies misappropriated by the deceased when in command of a force in the North of Formosa. The Governor of Kweichow is directed to recover the amount and send it to the Fuhkien authorities.

(2) A decree by which Li Min-ch'en is appointed Literary Examiner for the province of Yunnan.

(3) The acting Governor-General at Foochow, and the Governor of Fuhkien,

send a further memorial reporting the steps taken to alleviate the distress caused by the floods at Foochow. The waters left the city on the 15th of June, when the people who had homes to go to took their departure. At the seven soup kitchens established in the town, between eight hundred and a thousand persons were fed twice a day. To the sick, medicine was given, whilst gruel was sent round to children and old people. According to a report handed in by the magistrate of the Min district, 697 houses had fallen, and 39 persons had been drowned or crushed to death within his jurisdiction. In the How-kwan district, 10,417 houses were destroyed and 47 lives lost. Numerous public buildings are wholly or partially destroyed, and officials have been sent round to estimate the amount of damage. From Amoy five thousand bushels of rice have already been received, and about seventy thousand bushels have been purchased in Chêhkiang and Kiangsu, so that the price of grain was daily falling. From the districts above Foochow, reports were daily coming in, recounting the damage done. In some instances lives have been lost, and in others city gates and public buildings have been brought down by the rush of water. In all these districts the price of grain immediately went up, but the measures taken to send up supplies had gradually quieted the market. To relieve the necessities of the moment, the memorialists, as well as other officials, high and low, have contributed a portion of their pay; but the present calamity will necessitate a very large outlay to a much more serious extent than in the case of the floods of 1834 and 1844. The memorialists pray that the provinces of Kwangtung, Kiangsi, and Chêhkiang may be ordered to make good the amounts still owing by them to Fuhkien. Should the voluntary subscriptions prove sufficient, these public funds shall on no account be touched, but should charitable contributions fall short of the sum required, His Majesty's consent is requested to draw on the remittances from the provinces above mentioned. After all necessary relief shall have been given, and every sort of repair effected, accounts shall be duly rendered. The memorial concludes by remarking that no advantage had been taken of the public misfortunes to commit robbery; and that the quarter occupied by the Manchu garrison was perfectly quiet. The Imperial Rescript is as follows:—
“Let it be as proposed, and let injunctions be laid upon the local authorities to earnestly set about calming and relieving

the people, in order that their troubles may be lightened.”

(4) The acting Governor-General at Foochow reports that the Naval Commander-in-chief, P'eng Ts'u-han, who had been granted one month's sick leave, has now resumed his duties and put to sea.

(5) The same high official reports the receipt of the following contributions to the relief fund for the Foochow inundations:—From Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang, Tls. 3,000 out of his salary. From Fêng, *taotai* at Shanghai, 1,000 bushels of rice, 2,000 wadded garments, and 2,000 pieces of cotton cloth, besides medicines and other things. From T'ang, *taotai*, of the C.M.S.N. Co., 500 bushels of rice. From the district magistrate of Shanghai, 300 bushels of rice. From Yeh Wên-lan, expectant *taotai* in Kwangtung, 3,000 dollars, and 4,800 dollars collected by him. From the expectant *taotai* Yeh Ting-chüan, 500 dollars, besides 1,900 dollars collected by him. The Memorialist prays that rewards may be conferred on these officials in the same manner as in 1871, when contributions were made for the relief of the sufferers from the Tientsin floods, and an Imperial Rescript gives sanction to the proposal.

August 14th.—Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung, reports that the safety of the banks of the Yellow River at Ho-tsêh Hsen 荷澤縣 has been very seriously threatened. On the 7th June, a large dyke which had been gradually giving way before the action of the waves, fell in for a distance of over 1,000 feet. Fortunately materials were at hand, and 2,000 men were at once set to work, whose superhuman efforts succeeded in averting the threatened calamity. Again, on the 24th June, about 1,700 feet of the bank gave way and the position was most critical. Officers and men fought against the waters with their lives in their hands. One thousand additional hands were put on, and by dint of working day and night, the 3,800 feet of dyke was repaired, and subsidiary banks were built to deflect the action of the water. The sum of Tls. 65,000 which had already been set apart for ordinary repairs has been expended, and a further amount of Tls. 70,000 or 80,000 is applied for.

(2) Ngêh-lêh-ho-pu, Deputy Governor at Uliasutai, and his colleagues, report the recapture of a murderer who had effected his escape from prison. The prisoner was a soldier in the force stationed at Uliasutai, and one day while cutting fuel on the

hills, he had barbarously murdered a small boy tending cattle, in order to accomplish the theft of eight sheep. He was arrested and brought to trial, during the course of which he managed to elude the vigilance of his keepers and climb over the walls of the prison. He hid himself in the hills, whence he was in the habit of emerging at night to buy food; but on the eighth day of his escape, while buying provisions in the street, he was seized by the soldiery and made prisoner.

The memorialists pray that the penalty prescribed by law may be carried out, viz., that the man be executed and his head publicly exposed; and also that the officers who are answerable for the escape may be visited with the mitigated punishment of degradation while still retained at their posts.—The Imperial Rescript sanctions this.

August 15th.—(Court Circular). The Prince of Tun and others returned thanks this day for copies of a collection of Poems composed by (a late) Emperor, with which they have been presented.—The Governor-General of Min-chêh, Li Ho-nien, and the Financial Commissioner of Kweichow, Lin Chao-yüan, paid their respects on arrival at Peking, and had audience.

(1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by a native of Hupeh, named K'ow Yung-fuh, 70 years of age, who complains against the Magistrate of his district for gross acts of injustice. Complainant's son was arrested in 1870 with certain other persons, on suspicion of having murdered two out of three lodgers in an adjacent inn. Complainant's son, though subjected to illegal forms of torture, steadfastly refused to acknowledge the crime imputed to him; but the fortitude of one of the other prisoners gave way under the torture, and he returned answers incriminating his innocent fellow sufferer, who was thereupon reported to the higher courts as the guilty party. Some time afterwards, relatives of the two men who had been murdered came forward, and declared that the missing man had made his appearance at their home shortly after the occurrence, under circumstances which fastened on him the suspicion of being the actual murderer. On this being reported to the District Magistrate, he refused to disturb his previous judgment; and appeals to the higher authorities remained unheeded. Early in 1872, complainant lodged an appeal at Peking, and the provincial authorities were instructed to enquire into the case; but, instead of taking any steps on his behalf, the officer who was appointed to deal with the matter has

simply adhered to the original judgment, and has sought to coerce the complainant into acknowledging himself satisfied. A special decree is requested hereupon, in order that justice may be done.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 4th inst.

(2) Ying-lien, Deputy Governor at Tarbagatai, memorializes referring to the report which he sent off, in concert with the Military Governor Yung-ts'üan, on the 28th May last (see *Gazette* of 4th inst.), respecting certain unlawful proceedings by Tangutan lamas in the household of a Turgut noble.

August 16th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is taken up with a memorial from Ts'ung-shih, Acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, setting forth the result of a judicial enquiry into the conduct of a military officer who had been denounced at Peking for harbouring brigands and keeping a gambling house. For rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst.

August 17th.—(1) A Decree. Kin Shun (commander-in-chief of the army of the north-west) has memorialized Us reporting that the troops have advanced up to the walls of Manas, 瑪納斯, and have gained a succession of victories, as a result of which an insurgent leader has been captured and beheaded. The memorial states that on the 27th, 28th and 29th of June last, the Brigadier-General K'ung Ts'ai, in conjunction with other divisions of the force, advanced upon the town of Manas, where, by means of a determined attack continued from day to-day, he carried and destroyed the outposts of the insurgents on the west of the position, and, on the defenders taking to flight, Our troops pursued them to the foot of the walls. In the combat that ensued, the so styled General of the rebels, Ma Hing 馬興 by name, and upwards of 400 of their most desperate fighting men, were slain, and their so-styled *tsung-ling* (command-r) Ma Têh-ming and thirteen others were taken prisoners and subjected to the extreme penalty of the law. The action thus reported is worthy to be considered a success. Let Tso Tsung-t'ang and Kin Shun give orders to the troops to take advantage of their victory and press forward still further, to effect the capture of Manas itself, without any relaxation of their endeavours. The Brigadier-General K'ung Ts'ai, who has distinguished himself on this occasion, is awarded promotion to the rank of General (*t'i tuh*). Two other officers receive a step of advancement; and a list of recommendations on behalf of other officers

who have deserved well on this occasion is called for. Posthumous rewards are decreed on behalf of four subaltern officers who fell in the engagement. (N.B. Manas is a small fortified town, situated in about Long. 87° 05' E., Lat., 44° 12' N. lying on the highroad from Barkul to Ili, somewhat to the North-west of Urumtsi. Its value to the insurgent Dunganis consists, most probably, in the fact of its serving as an outwork to the last-named place, their principal stronghold).

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the trial and execution of a lunatic for the murder of his mother, a native of the Wan-p'ing district, by striking her on the head with a chopper. The criminal, according to law, has been put to death by the "slicing" (*ling-ch'e*) process.

August 18th.—(1) A Decree. Kin-shun, Commander-in-chief of the army beyond the Wall, denounces Chi-'rh-hung-ngêh, Lieutenant-General at Mergen, for insubordination. Chi-'rh-hung-ngêh having applied for sick leave, an officer was detached by Kin-shun to take command of his regiment of cavalry. Chi-'rh-hung-ngêh, however, refused to give up his command, and made use of mutinous language. On another occasion, Kin-shun having despatched a force to convey military stores, this officer allowed his men to oppose its progress. For these offences, Chi-'rh-hung-ngêh, as well as Lieutenant-General Yi-lo-ho-pu, and Colonel Yung-ch'êng, on whose suggestion the former acted as he did, are ordered to be stripped of their rank, and to be handed over to Tso Tsung-t'ang for punishment.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung, forwards an explanation of the reasons why the receipt of the native maritime Customs' duties for the previous year has fallen short of the regulation amount, and supports the request of the Superintendent of Customs that he may neither be called upon to make good the deficit, nor incur any other penalty. The annual amount of maritime duties required by the Board of Revenue from the province of Shantung has been fixed as follows:—Regulation amount, Tls. 50,000; supplementary amount, Tls. 12,000; extra supplementary amount, Tls. 8,000—or 70,000 taels in all. Kung Yi-t'u, taotai of the Têng-Lai-Ts'ing Circuit, and Superintendent of Customs at Chefoo, in submitting the returns for the last twelve months, observes that during the ten or fifteen years that the Custom-house under his control has been in existence, the receipts in the most flourishing years have only

been a little in excess of 60,000 taels, and that the amount named by the Board is beyond the possibility of collection, notwithstanding his having introduced all possible reforms, and enjoined upon his subordinates the necessity of exercising great care and vigilance in the collection of duties. Yen-t'ai (Chefoo) is in communication with Shanghai on the South, and with Tientsin and Newchwang on the North, and is looked upon by coasting vessels merely as a sort of half-way place of call. The trade done there is infinitesimal. During the year ending 11th February, 1876, the receipt of native duties on all kinds of merchandize, at Yentai and the 23 subsidiary ports, amounted to Tls. 57,241.8.5.6, together with Tls. 1,005 4.7.4 from rice conveyed by sea, making in all Tls. 58,247.3.3. After subtracting the regulation amount of Tls. 50,000 required by the Board, the sum of Tls. 8,247.3.3 only is left to meet the surplus amount required, while the extra surplus amount of Tls. 8,000, which should also be remitted to the Board, is totally unprovided for. The Superintendent in explanation of this deficit states that beans, beancake, red dates, cotton, sugar, and paper, are the principal articles from which the Customs' revenue is derived. Last year, the bean crop was poor both in Shantung and at Newchwang, and consequently the importation at Chefoo was limited. This again depressed the beancake and bean-oil trade. The cotton and date crop in the Wu-ting and Tung-ch'ang region was also short. Again, in August a series of gales caused the destruction of a large number of vessels laden with sugar, rice, and other cargo. The loss of property was very great, and all trade, and with it the receipts of duties, ceased for half a month. The failure to collect the full amount required by the Board is due to circumstances beyond human control, and is not to be attributed to laxity in the collection of the revenue. The revenue from foreign opium, which amounted to Tls. 6,654.387 mls, is remitted separately, and does not enter into the general account. In addition to the receipts shown above, there was collected under the head of "waste allowance" the sum of Tls. 5,724.1.8.5.6 on general merchandize, and Tls. 1,190.7.0.3 on opium, making a total of Tls. 6,914.8.8.8. This amount is inadequate to meet the calls upon it, viz., Tls. 7,440 for the office expenses of the various Customs' stations, Tls. 235 for repairs to the jetty at Chefoo, and other items. The deficit on this account is Tls. 2,095.9.8.1.4, and sanction

is requested to its being advanced out of the year's receipts, until it can be refunded out of next year's "waste allowance." The Governor in forwarding these returns corroborates the statements put forth by the Superintendent of Customs, and prays that the Board of Revenue may be directed not to hold the Superintendent personally responsible for the deficit.—The Rescript is, "Let the Board of Revenue consider and report."

(3) The Comptrollers of the Household memorialize replying to the charges brought by the Censor Chang Kwan-chun against the officers who have charge of the Privy Purse. The Censor had accused the clerks of assuming to themselves unauthorized control over the Imperial funds, and of levying fees of 10 or 20 per cent. before consenting to make payments which were due. In obedience to the Imperial commands the comptrollers have called before them the clerks of the household, who, when questioned, stated that it frequently happened that the receipts fell short of the expenditure. Under these circumstances, in making payments, it is necessary to be guided by the nature of any particular claims. The most urgent are submitted for approval, and when authority has been obtained, the amount is duly paid. It has even happened in some cases that payment has had to be made in several instalments, before the whole account could be cleared off. An examination of the accounts has borne out the statement of the clerks. There are many more claims on the Privy Purse than it can meet, and the most pressing claim has to be met first. The result is that many payments must be postponed, but it is certain that the clerks have not taken upon themselves the control of the Privy Purse. As regards the claiming of commissions, all the clerks have been assembled and questioned. They were unanimous in denying that there had been anything of the kind, and they signed a written declaration to that effect. The Comptrollers conclude by saying that although it has now been shown that the accused officials are innocent of the charges brought against them, they will nevertheless from time to time institute an inquiry; and should any person be found guilty of such malpractices, he shall at once be denounced.

(4) Chih-kang, Resident at Urga, proposes an arrangement whereby the allowance for carriage of military stores for the Urga garrison, and for extra fuel and straw, may be drawn by the Commissariat officer at Chang-chia-k'ow (Kalgan) instead of himself, as

at present. The allowance is Tls. 15,000, with Tls. 8,000 for office expenses. This latter sum will be saved under the new arrangement, as all the clerks and writers at Urga may then be dismissed. The reason of the proposal being put forward is that the Board of Revenue is so irregular in remitting the allowance to Urga.

August 19th.—(1) En-ho is appointed Lieut. General at Mo-erh-ken (Mergen)

(2) Tsai-ling, President of the Board of Revenue, submits a memorial respecting the conveyance of copper and lead from the province of Yünnan. The practice hitherto followed has been that laid down in a decree dated 1792, when K'ien-lung, conceiving that the safety of the Yünnan copper could not be secured if entrusted to the care of a Yünnan official throughout the whole journey, commanded that the Financial and Judicial Commissioners for the provinces of Szechw'an, Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangsi, Kiangsu, An-hwei, Shantung and Chihli, should be severally held responsible during the transport of the copper through their respective provinces. In 1875, the then Governor of Yünnan, Ts'ên Yü-ying, reported the despatch of one million catties of copper for Peking, by way of Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Kiangsu, and so by sea to Tientsin; and he added that he had sent certain functionaries to open offices in the three above named provinces and in Chihli for the purpose of receiving and sending on the copper. The Board of Revenue thereupon pointed out in a memorial, which received his Majesty's assent, that, according to regulations, the Governor of Yünnan should have given notice of the intended despatch of the copper in time for the Board of Revenue to request that the Financial and Judicial Commissioners of the provinces en route should be directed by Decree to attend to its safe transmission. Seeing, however, that the supply of copper had been suspended for so many years, and that the present step was equivalent to an entirely new undertaking, and considering further that the Governor of Yünnan had already sent forward his men to establish offices in the various provinces, the Board had sanctioned this temporary arrangement, but suggested that in future the old regulations should be followed. The acting-Governor of Yünnan now memorialises stating that the establishment of offices in the different provinces for the transmission of copper was but a temporary expedient, and that in the long run it is a measure which will not answer. He, therefore, requests that these offices be abolished,

and that the Financial and Judicial Commissioners of the provinces may be directed to attend to the safe transmission of the first instalment of the second lot of copper, consisting of 500,000 catties. The President of the Board of Revenue thereupon requests that the existing regulations be adhered to, and that the Financial and Judicial Commissioners of Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Kiangsu, and Chihli be appointed by Decree to take charge of the copper while passing through their respective provinces. In former days the supply of copper from Yünnan was constant, and it was an easy matter to fix the date of its despatch to Peking in time to appoint officers to attend to its passage through the several provinces. Now, however, the yearly amount is sent forward in irregular instalments, and to save trouble it is suggested that instead of renewing the appointment of officers on each occasion, the Financial and Judicial Commissioners in the provinces should be nominated for a period of three years, and that when an officer is removed or promoted to another post, his successor should take upon himself the duty of superintending the safe passage of the Yünnan copper. The memorial concludes by saying that when Yünnan again sends the full yearly quantity of copper, the question may be considered whether the old system shall be reverted to by discontinuing transport by sea. For rescript sanctioning all the proposals put forth in the memorial, see *Gazette* of 9th inst.

August 20th.—(1) P'an Ting-sin, Financial Commissioner of Yünnan, reports having taken over the seals of office on the 14th May, from Ts'ên Yü-ying, the late Governor, who has retired into mourning. Wên-kêh, Financial Commissioner of Szechw'an, has been appointed Governor of Yünnan, but pending his arrival P'an Ting-sin has been directed to assume charge of the post.

(2) Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, forwards an application for sick leave from Ch'êng-yü, late Judicial Commissioner of Shansi, who has been promoted to be Financial Commissioner in Szechw'an. The Imperial Rescript grants him one month's leave.

(3) Wên-yuh, acting Governor-General of Min-Chêh, memorializes requesting that a captain in the naval brigade, named Yü Che-t'ing, who has been required to proceed to Peking for presentation, may postpone his departure for the present. The officer in question is in command of two battalions of troops at Pagoda Anchorage, and the men under his instruction are

beginning to shew great progress. At the present juncture, when the defence of the seaboard is a matter of paramount importance, it would be unadvisable to substitute a stranger in his place.—Rescript: Be it as is requested. Let the Board of War take note.

August 21st.—(1) A memorial by Li Ch'ing-ao, Governor of Honan, reporting the sentences awarded in an appeal case. The plaintiff's father was murdered by burglars, who, for complicated reasons which the memorialist explains at great length, were not dealt with in a manner that satisfied the plaintiff, whose grief at his father's death was excessive. This having given rise to a suspicion in his mind that justice was not being done, he appealed to Peking. The plaintiff's suspicions were very pardonable under the circumstances, and memorialist begs that his offence may be overlooked.

(2) A memorial by the same officer reporting trial and decision in the following case:—Wang-Ni and his mother dwelt in a village in the Huai-ning district, having as their neighbours one Yü-Ko. Yü-Ko had lent Wang-Ni 300 *cash*, and was constantly pressing him for repayment which Wang-Ni as frequently evaded. One day Yü-Ko had come as usual for his money, and was accused of displaying a grasping disposition by the mother and son. This remark gave rise to much abuse on both sides, which was ended in Wang-Ni attacking Yü-Ko with a knife. Yü-Ko then ran away pursued by Wang-Ni, who eventually caught him up, whereupon Yü-Ko turned on Wang-Ni and snatched the knife from him; Wang-Ni stooped to pick up a stone, and Yü-Ko stabbed him in the back. Wang-Ni, upon this, seized Yü-Ko by the queue, and Yü-Ko stabbed him several times, inflicting wounds of which he died. It then occurred to Yü-Ko that the mother might prove dangerous as a witness, whereupon he returned and killed her also. Yü-Ko has been sentenced to decapitation.

(3) A memorial by the same officer reporting his return to the provincial capital from a tour of military inspection, and reporting on the general condition of the troops and garrisons throughout the province of Honan. He held inspections of troops wherever he went, and found them well versed in drill of every description; the men were of fit age and robust, and handy in the use of their weapons. He made a point of studying the conditions of the country and the character of the people at the various places he visited, and has arrived at the general conclusion that

the people in the southern portion of the province are turbulent, overbearing and litigious; and the official underlings crafty, deceitful and difficult to manage. The population of the north has the reputation of being honest and simple, forming itself into local societies for mutual protection and assistance.

August 22nd—(1) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung, reports the arrival of the entire squadron of grain-junks, with the southern contingent of the tribute rice for Peking, at Pa-li Miao, on the north bank of the Yellow River, where they lay to await a rise at the next freshet in order to re-enter the Grand Canal. The total number of grain junks that had come forward through Shantung was 611, and great efforts in the way of deepening the channel of the Canal have been rendered necessary by the excessive drought of the season. The vessels reached Tsi-ning-chow by the 12th July, and were delayed here for some days for want of water. Heavy falls of rain occurred, however, by good fortune, about this time, causing a rise in the waters of the river Wên, which enabled the squadron to move on. They passed the newly constructed sluice called the Shih Li Cha (ten li sluice), and entered the Yellow River on the 18th July, and by the next day but one the entire number of junks had been navigated down to their anchorage ground on the opposite bank.

(2) Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports the capture, at Woosung, and immediate execution of Huang Shao-fu, formerly a soldier, who had become a member of an affiliated society 會匪 at the solicitation of one Liu Ting-hwei, an escaped criminal. This man had given him the 號布 or cloth badge that forms the certificate of membership of the society, on which are printed certain characters in blue. Liu Ting-hwei, who persistently denied his guilt, has died in prison.

August 23rd—(1) A Decree ordering the confiscation of the property of a sub-prefect denounced by Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêngking, for large deficiencies in certain accounts to be rendered by him.

(2) A Decree. The acting Vice-President Kwoh Sung-tao memorializes stating that he has not recovered from his long-standing complaint, and praying that he may be released from the duties of his acting appointment. Let Kwoh Sung-tao be permitted to vacate the post of acting Vice-President of the Board of War. He

will still be required, at the proper time, to proceed on the mission to which he was originally appointed. (N.B.—Kwo Sung-tao is the senior of the two envoys to Great Britain appointed last year.)

(3) Wu Ta-chêng, Literary Chancellor of the Province of Shen-si, requests that Ts'ang-Hieh (one of the reputed inventors of the Chinese written character) may be canonised, and worshipped with the same sacrifices that are offered to Wên-ch'ang 文昌, the God of Literature, a divinity of the second order. The memorialist points out that the superior man never loses sight of primary causes, and that by the rules of propriety honour is due to those men of ancient times who have given laws to mankind. It is to books and literature that the spread of education and enlightenment is due; by them the distinctions of shape and sound have been created, and the laws of propriety and right principle have had their growth. Ts'ang-Hieh was the founder of literature, just as Sien-Nung was the founder of the art of agriculture. Ts'ang-Hieh is said to have been buried in Ya Hsien, and at a village in Pai Shui Hsien, in the province of Shansi, which is the ancient Ya Hsien of the Han dynasty, there is a Temple dedicated to his memory in which an ancient inscription is still preserved. A great portion of this inscription is obliterated, but from what remains it is evidently laudatory of the inventor of the written character. The memorialist suggests that this Temple be restored, and that the proper Board be instructed to draw up a ritual, in accordance with which sacrifice shall be paid to Ts'ang Hieh; also that instructions be given for the erection of temples in his honour at all provincial cities and prefectural and district towns, throughout the Empire, at which sacrifice shall be made to him twice a year by the authorities.—Referred to the Board of Rites for consideration.

(4) A memorial by the same officer, in which he reports that he has handed over charge of the Literary Chancellorship of the Province of Kansuh to Hsi'ying-k'uei, in accordance with the Imperial Decree sanctioning the appointment of a second Chancellor to the province of Kansuh, which has been hitherto, with Shensi, under the control of one officer.

August 24th.—(Court Circular.) Kwoh Sung-tao returned thanks for having been allowed to vacate his acting appointment.

(1) A Decree. Let T'ung-Hwa 童華 act as Senior Vice-President of the Board of War.

(2) Wên-Yih, acting Governor-General of Mîn-Chêh, reports that he is unable to forward the allotted contribution out of the salt duties towards the military expenditure in Kansuh. He gives a list of sums amounting to Tls. 300,000, the estimated amount of the salt duties that have to be contributed by the province for different purposes, and declares that it is utterly impossible to raise the 50,000 taels, the amount set down as the contribution from Fukkien towards the army in Kansuh. He suggests that this sum shall be raised elsewhere.—Referred to the proper Board for consideration.

The rest of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with Memorials from the same officer, recommending certain unimportant military promotions and transfers.

August 25th.—(1) The Board of Censorate reports the following appeal case:—Kien Tsze-k'i, a native of Sze-ch'wan, complains that certain of his kinsmen, in consequence of his adopted father having refused them the loan of a barrow, had trumped up some charge against him, which resulted in his being heavily mulcted by corrupt official underlings. They then seized his adopted father, plundered his house, and beat him so cruelly that he died. The inquest on the body, and the subsequent trial of the guilty parties, were a mere farce, and not only were the defendants allowed to get off scot free, but the present appellant was actually seized and severely beaten, and the property left by his adopted father's second wife to her first husband's son was made over to the defendants.—Referred in the usual manner.

(2) P'an Ting-sin, Commissioner of Finance for the Province of Yünnan, Acting-Governor and Acting Literary Chancellor of the same Province, reports that the Literary Chancellor has been obliged to vacate his post in consequence of the death of a parent, and prays that an officer may at once be sent to fill the vacant post.

(3) Liu Chang-yao reports two daring acts of burglary in the district of Fu-min in the Province of Yünnan. Although certain allowance should be made for the recently disturbed condition of the Province, and there are doubtless numbers of disbanded braves always ready for mischief, still the Magistrate has been guilty of carelessness, and the memorialist suggests that this officer, with certain of his subordinates, be stripped of their rank and deprived of office, but retained in the district to assist their successors in apprehending the burglars.—Rescript: Let it be as requested.

(4) Supplementary Memorial by Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, requesting the immediate dismissal of the magistrate of the district of Wang-tu 望都縣. A wayside robbery having been committed within his jurisdiction, not only did he not take energetic steps for the apprehension of the criminals and recovery of the plunder, but he allowed the officers charged with their arrest to seize innocent persons, and endeavour to extort from them by torture an admission of guilt, in order to rid themselves of their task.—Rescript: Let Wu Shih-ts'üan be at once deprived of office. Let the rest be dealt with as proposed.

(5) Wang Wên-shao, Governor of Hunan, offers on behalf of himself and his subordinates a contribution in aid of the sufferers by famine in the North. They were deeply moved by the perusal of the Decree lately published with reference to the distress in Chihli. Filled with sympathy for the suffering population, they feel that this is a fitting opportunity for displaying their gratitude for the benefits heaped upon them by His Majesty. They have accordingly subscribed a sum of Taels 30,000, which they have sent by steamer from Hankow to Tientsin, via Shanghai, under charge of an officer who has been instructed to hand it over to the Governor of Shun-t'ien. It is their earnest wish that abundant rain may speedily fall, in time to admit of an autumn crop being sown, that so a bare sufficiency may be obtained for those who are in want. The amounts respectively subscribed are specified in the Memorial. The Governor heads the list with Taels 5,000; the Commissioner of Finance gives Taels 3,000, the Provincial Judge Tls. 2,000, and the other provincial officials, from Taotais down to expectant magistrates, contribute sums varying from Taels 1,000 to Taels 200.—A Rescript is appended to the Memorial, directing the proper Board to consider what special honorary reward shall be conferred upon the Governor in recognition of this donation, and calling upon the Board of Revenue to reward the other officers according to precedent.

August 26th.—The acting Governor-General of Hukwang, Wêng T'ung-tsiao, memorializes with reference to an alleged case of attempted seduction on the part of a public officer, which has been brought to his notice by a despatch from P'êng Yü-lin, the Inspector-General of the Yangtze naval forces. The complainant is a woman named T'an Hu-shé, wife of a physician at

Wu-ch'ang, who had been called in to attend upon a Colonel named Wang Shun-yen. According to the woman's complaint, the officer in question, after his recovery, had become very intimate in her husband's household, and had induced her son to become a member of a sworn brotherhood, proceeding afterwards, with the aid of an expectant Prefect named Twan She-lien to entice her husband into a similar connection, his ultimate aim being no other than that of effecting the seduction of complainant herself. She had repeatedly repelled advances on his part, in revenge for which he was stated to be plotting to do her an injury. On receipt of this petition the parties had been summoned, but the incriminated officials steadfastly deny their guilt. A decree is requested stripping them *ad hoc* of their rank, in order that they may be placed regularly on trial.—Granted by rescript.

August 27th.—(1) A decree appointing Shêng Tai 升泰 to the post of Judicial Commissioner for the province of Cheh-kiang.

(2) A decree renewing the appointment of Sih-kw'ei 錫奎 as Superintendent of the Imperial manufactory at Nanking.

(3) Kin Shun, lieutenant-general of the army of the west, memorializes reporting a success obtained by the Imperial troops under the walls of the town of Manas. On the 7th of June last, he observes, he had already reported the advance of the force entitled the *Ting Si Ying* 定西營, under its commander, the Brigadier-General K'ung Ts'ai, to a point known as Shih-li Tun, distant ten li northwest from Manas, and the successful issue of several engagements. On the 8th July he received a report to the following effect from General K'ung Ts'ai:—For some days after the advance of the force to the vicinity of Manas, skirmishes had taken place, in the course of which a number of prisoners had been taken and beheaded. On the 25th May, a prisoner named Ma Wên-yüan was brought in alive, who stated, on examination, that the city was running short of provisions, and that some 3,000 mounted rebels belonging to the North and South of the city (or, both the northern and southern cities) were said to have agreed with the "turban-wearing Mahommedans" (the non-Chinese Mussulmans), to make a foray for the capture of supplies. Upon this K'ung Ts'ai took counsel with his colleague K'ên-si-k'ên-t'u, and came to the conclusion that, as the force had advanced so

far into the insurgent territory, the opportunity must be taken to strike a vigorous blow, or otherwise it would be useless to hope for triumph over the enemy, who would come forth, on the contrary, at the first favourable moment, to intercept our supplies. In pursuance of this decision, the encampment was broken up at 9 p.m. on the 27th May, the troops being supplied with dry rations, and each soldier furnished with a couple of stakes of wood. A lieutenant was left in command of a regiment of cavalry, which was to be paraded at daylight the following morning in front of the position at Shih-li Tun as a demonstration of support, whilst the remainder of the force, both horse and foot, rapidly advanced by the bright starlight until they found themselves, about midnight, at a little more than a mile from the north-west angle of the town, on the bank of a dry watercourse. The troops were at once set to work to entrench themselves and to erect a stockade, which was completed before daylight. So soon as this was discovered by the enemy, they sallied out to the attack, but K'ung Ts'ai arrayed his forces for the encounter, and just as all preparations were completed the main body of the enemy swarmed forward. They were met by a volley of the foreign firearms and simultaneous discharges of the *p'i shan* (mountain-splitting) artillery, the troops shewing equal firmness of attitude and steadiness in fight. The enemy made repeated but almost invariably unsuccessful onslaughts, and the action lasted for several hours, in the course of which a great number of the enemy were slain. At length their so-styled generalissimo Ma Hing was struck down from his horse by a cannon shot, at which the insurgents were thrown into disorder, and the force advanced shouting enthusiastically, and slaughtering the enemy with sword and spear. Some scores were cut down in hand to hand combat, and the insurgents, unable to withstand the onset, retreated within their outwork, from which they poured discharges of musketry and artillery upon the attacking party. Several men of the force were wounded on this occasion. An attempt to storm the outwork was now made, and Kwei-ch'êng, an acting Major of the Manchu division, headed the storming party. He was the first to climb the stockade and to cut down one of the rebels, but just as the place was carried by assault he fell, struck down by the rebel fire. The outwork, once carried, was at once levelled to the ground, and at about 1 p.m. the troops were withdrawn from the field. On the 29th, a sally was

made in great force by the insurgents, who issued after the breakfast hour from their entrenchments, and did all in their power to provoke a combat; but K'ung Ts'ai kept steadfastly under cover until a fitting opportunity should occur. At length, toward noon, the enemy, on finding that our troops declined to come forth, began either to dismount from their horses to rest, or to straggle back to their camps. K'ung Ts'ai upon this gave the order to advance, and the troops, issuing in the order prescribed to them from their entrenchments, fell upon the enemy and routed them with great loss. They were pursued up to the suburbs of the city, but here a check was sustained, an insurgent force suddenly issuing from an ambush, by whose fire the two leaders of the pursuing force lost their lives. In the three days' fighting which terminated with this result, upward of four hundred of the most desperate of the insurgent fighting men were slain, beside their so-styled generalissimo Ma Hing, and fourteen of their so-styled officers were taken prisoner. Four small pieces of cannon were captured, with between 100 and 150 trophies in the shape of flags, horses, and weapons. The loss in killed and wounded on the Imperial side was about 20 officers and men. The fourteen prisoners have been simultaneously executed, after taking their depositions. — To this report from his subordinate, General Kin Shun adds some laudatory comments, and states that, as reinforcements had reached him on the 11th July, he has agreed with the Taotai Liu Kin-t'ang, Commander-in-chief of the Hunan irregulars, to advance with him on the 22nd July to prosecute the operations already begun for the recovery of Manas. Promotions and honours are solicited on behalf of those who distinguished themselves on the late occasion. — For rescript see *Gazette* of August 17th.

(2) In a postscript Memorial, Kin Shun reports the issue of a temporary seal to an officer named Shakhtulinchabu, who was about to proceed at the head of a force of Manchu cavalry to Hei-taze Wo 黑茨窩, to take charge of a convoy of supplies from the Russians.

August 28th. — The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials on administration from Liu Ch'ang-yao, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow.

August 29th. — (1) A decree appointing Sung-shên 嵩申 to the dignity of Assistant-Expositor in the Han-lin College.

(N.B. — Sung-shên is a son of Ts'ung-shih, the acting Governor-General of Shêngking, and a nephew, consequently, of Ch'ung-how, one of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.)

(2) The acting Governor of Kiangse reports the purchase and despatch northwards of the quota of rice from that province, according to the system recently introduced. The C. M. S. N. Co. has purchased and shipped to Tientsin by its steamers, for delivery at T'ung Chow, 87,780 piculs of grain, including the allowances for waste, forming thirteen cargoes in all. The Company will make its own arrangements for the transshipment and delivery at T'ung Chow.

(3) The same official reports upon the receipts of the Custom-house at Kan-chow in the south of Kiangse, which, owing to the altered state of circumstances, is no longer able to yield its former amount of returns. The regulation amount of revenue with which the Kan-chow Custom-house is assessed is Tls. 46,000 and odd per annum, besides Tls. 38,000 by way of additional assessment subsequently imposed. The Taotai of the Ki-Nan-Kan-Ning circuit has now, however, represented that the total amount collected for the twelve months ending the 8th of May last was, inclusive of the meltage charge, no more than Tls. 31,307, beside a sum of Tls. 1,495 collected at the Lin-hing barrier on miscellaneous articles. To the amount of collection has to be added the sum of Tls. 49,139.8.7, credited to the Kan-chow Custom-house by the Customs at Shanghai in compensation for the silk duty (formerly levied at Kan-chow on silk *in transitu* to Canton), making total revenue Tls. 81,942 odd. The incidental charges on this collection are as follows: — Official fees to the Board and Supervisorate at Peking, salary of Superintendent, and wages, Tls. 6,180; expenses of transmission and allowance to officer in charge of convoy, Tls. 1,339. The amounts sent forward have been the regulation sum of Tls. 46,471, and Tls. 28,023 on account of the supplementary assessment. It is pointed out that the main sources of revenue of the Kan-chow Customs are tea and silk, and that since the opening of additional Treaty ports along the coast and rivers, these staples have been shipped for the most part from the ports of Shanghai and Kiukiang, whilst imports from Canton are carried by steamer up the Yangtze, without going near the Kan-chow Custom-house. The principal source of revenue now depended upon there is sugar and the timber going

down in rafts. Owing to protracted drought last autumn and winter, the streams ran dry and the rafts were long unable to proceed; whilst on the other hand the floods of the past spring prevented merchandize ascending the rivers. These various causes are pleaded in excuse for the falling off of the revenue.

August 30th. — (1) Wang Wêng-shao, Governor of Hunan, memorializes on the application of certain officials of the province, representing the meritorious conduct of a lady named Wang, the niece of an expectant Prefect, who was betrothed as a girl to the son of a neighbour named Ku Nai-teh. Her intended husband lost his life in 1860 at the taking of Hangchow by the rebels, but it was not until 1864 that confirmation of the news of his decease was obtained. The bereaved young lady thereupon insisted upon fulfilling the duty of entering his family as his widow, and for the last twelve years she has devoted herself entirely to the care of her intended bridegroom's parents. A token of the Imperial approbation is solicited accordingly on her behalf. In the same memorial another application of the like description is embraced. — Granted by rescript.

(2) The Governor of Hunan reports the execution by *ling-ch'e* (slicing to death) of a lunatic guilty of the murder of his grandmother, whom he hacked to death with a chopper in a fit of frenzy.

August 31st. — No documents of importance.

Sept. 1st. — Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, reports in a memorial occupying the entire *Gazette*, the result of an enquiry into a case referred back, after appeal to Peking, by a decree dated Sept. 8th, 1873. The complainant, Ma King, a graduate of the Yang-kao district, had petitioned against illegal exactions on the part of the Magistrate's revenue clerks. On the trial which has been instituted at the provincial capital, the following facts have been elicited: — Ma King, the complainant, obtained his degree as bachelor at the examinations of 1833. The land revenue of the district in question is assessed at the following rates (per *mow*?): — Commuted capitation tax, 9 *candareens* 4 *cash*, with 2 *cands.* 6 *cash* meltage fee; rice levy, 3 *mace* 3 *cands.* 4 *cash*, with 1 *cand.* 7 *cash* meltage fee; and bean levy, 4 *mace* 9 *cands.* 9 *cash*, — a total, under all heads, of Tael 1.0.7. (N.B. — There must be an error in the figures given in the *Gazette*, as addition shews a total, on the above items, of only Tael 0.9.7.) The taxpayers were divided into two classes, called the

northern and southern divisions; but their payments were in all cases made at current weight, which is less than that of the Government scales. The northern division, consisting in a mountainous and unfrequented region, was altogether devoid of silver of the proper purity, whilst in the southern division the circulating medium is of an even still lower degree of fineness than in the neighbouring sub-district. For this reason, an additional charge has long been made, on the collection of revenue, under the head of fee for difference of weight, meltage, and sundry expenses, amounting to 2 *mace* 1 *candareen* for the southern division, and 2 *mace* 5 *candareens* for the northern division. In the southern division all payments were made in silver, but in the northern division silver and *cash* were taken indiscriminately, the copper money being received at prevailing rates. This system has been in force for a great length of time, the exact period of its commencement being unknown. The market rate for *cash* in the district was 640 standard coin to the thousand (nominal) *cash*. In the proclamation issued in the Spring of 1872, announcing the collection of the first half-year's taxes, the magistrate inadvertently set forth the amount of regulation levy at 1 Tael, instead of 1 Tael 7 *candareens*, the proper total, beside the charge of 2 *mace* 5 *candareens* for extra charges in the northern division. No exaction whatever was demanded over and above the authorized amount; but it is found that the revenue clerk, Liu Wan-hêng, imposed an extra fee for stationery and office expenses, with the privity of some of his fellows, under which head he levied in all a sum of 7,500 *cash*. The complainant in the present case put himself forward, as a literary graduate, to complain against illegal taxation, the fact being that what he complained against was the fraction inadvertently omitted from the Magistrate's notification. His complaint in the first instance led to a tumult in the Yamên, for stirring up which he was committed to custody by the magistrate and threatened with deprivation of his literary status. Hence his appeal to Peking. As a result of the enquiry, the offending revenue clerk had been imprisoned to await trial, and it is certified that he has died in confinement from natural causes. The complainant is punished for bringing a false charge by permanent deprivation of his literary grade; and other minor parties to the case have been sentenced as the circumstances require. — Rescript: Let the Board

of Punishments consider and report hereupon.

Sept. 2nd.—No documents of importance.

Sept. 3rd.—(Court Circular.) Kwoh Sung-tao (Senior Envoy-designate to Great Britain) applied for three months' congé and leave to return to his native place.

(1) A Decree, Wên Kêh (acting Governor-General of Szech'wan), and T'an Chung-lin (Governor of Shensi) have heretofore at divers intervals reported to Us that disturbances had been caused by lawless offenders in the Tung-hiang district in Szech'wan, and that the ringleader, named Yüan T'ing-kiao, had effected his escape. The Censor Wu Chên subsequently represented to Us that the Prefect Yih Yin-che had been guilty of maladministration, and that innocent persons had been slaughtered by the General, Li Yeo-hêng. We issued commands, hereupon, to Wên Kêh to institute enquiry and take judicial action. It has now been reported to Us by the Censor Kw'ei Kwang, supervisor of the North division of Peking, that Yüan T'ing-kiao has secretly made his way to the capital, and, having been apprehended, has made the following statement, viz., that owing to intolerable exactions demanded last year by the notables of the district, he had gone at the head of a concourse of persons to their committee-house to hold a reckoning. Upon this the district Magistrate reported a rising of the inhabitants and asked that troops be sent against them. Li Yeo-hêng then massacred [a number of] unoffending persons, and carried off women and girls by way of booty. The Censor was besought to represent this on his (the prisoner's) behalf. We command that Yüan T'ing-kiao be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial, and that he be detained for the time being in confinement. Let Li Han-chang and Wên Kêh make a searching investigation into the particulars stated in his depositions, and make veracious report to Us of the facts as they exist. Let there be no approach to an attempt at screening the incriminated parties.

(2) Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, memorializes soliciting a postponement of the winter hunt, which should be undertaken this year, on the ground of insufficiency of funds. He represents that since the annual winter hunt was suspended in 1853, the lands within the Imperial deer forests toward the north-east, in the territory of Kirin, have been occupied by tillers of the soil, under official sanction, in consequence of which the supply of game in the south-eastern

portion of the hunting grounds has been cut off from its former sources, and the deer are continually decreasing in numbers. When the resumption of the winter hunts was ordered by Decree in 1869, it was found that the regulation number of deer could not be obtained, and it was then requested that the hunt should take place only in alternate years. The regulations require that, for the purposes of the hunt, a body of 1,000 soldiery is to be assembled from the different garrisons. The officers provide their own expenses, but for the private soldiers a batta allowance of Tls. 15 per man is to be issued, entailing a total outlay of upwards of Tls. 15,900. The additional expenses for saddlery and accoutrements, tents, field provisions, amounting to not less than Tls. 30 or 40 per man, are met, according to usage, by a general army subscription. The object of the winter hunt is not only the securing of dainties for the Imperial table, but also the exercise of the soldiery in the discharge of their duties; but in the existing state of impoverishment of the exchequer and insufficiency of the forces to meet the requirements of the services, it is considered that the winter hunt, if now proceeded with, would be a duty of excessive hardship. It is prayed therefore that it may be omitted until the next bien-nial period, when, as circumstances may permit, the memorialists will report as to its resumption. The provision of air-dried deer's-flesh and of deer's tails, which should be forwarded to Court during the present year, has been attended to by parties of soldiery sent to hunt beyond the border, and shall be duly transmitted to Peking.—Rescript granting the solicited postponement.

(2) Kwoh Sung-tao memorializes soliciting, on the ground of continued illness, relief from his employment as an acting Vice-President of the Board of War and as a Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, in order that he may be enabled to return to his home and devote himself in tranquillity to the restoration of his health.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 23rd inst.

Sept. 4th.—(1) A decree acceding to the request presented by Li Pei-king, Governor of Kweichow, who has denounced an acting district Magistrate, named Wu Yen-yao, for indulging in arbitrary exactions from the Miao-tsze population of the Liu-tung villages under pretext of administrative measures on the restoration of order. He is directed to be stripped of his rank and put on trial.

(2) A decree removing Hwên Hung-i, prefect of Kwei-yang Fu, from his post, and ordering him to Peking for audience, on a representation from the Governor of Kweichow declaring him to be inefficient in the discharge of the duties of his post.

(3) A decree cashiering or removing a number of district magistrates in Kiangsi, on a representation from the Governor, Liu Ping-chang.

(4) Yoh-ling, the Lieutenant-General superintending the Customs' collectorate of the left wing of the Banners of Peking, reports the result of his administration for the twelve months ending August 1st, 1876. The amount levied upon cattle has been Taels 17,933.45, and by way of house tax Taels 7,686. The "standard" amount that should be levied under the first head is Taels 10,008; but the receipts shew a deficiency, under the head of "supplementary augmentation," of Taels 16,247. The falling off is accounted for in great measure by the drought of the past season, which has tended to keep cattle drovers from bringing their animals to Peking, and to other subsidiary causes, including a decree issued some years ago, at the instance of the Board of War, forbidding the marketing of horses at Peking.

Sept. 5th.—(1) Siang-hiang, the Lieutenant-General in charge of the Customs collectorate of the right wing of the Peking Banners, reports the amount collected during the twelve-months ended August 1st, 1876, at Taels 17,103.14 from cattle duties and Taels 3,264 from house-tax.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Min-chêh and the Governor of Fuhkien report that the Prefect of Kien-ning Fu, Li Ki-yen, has applied for leave to retire from the service to devote himself to attendance on his aged parents. An expectant-Prefect, named Chao Kün 趙均, is declared to have the requisite knowledge of affairs to fit him for the acting appointment. (N.B. The retirement of Li Ki-yen is probably not unconnected with the recent anti-missionary outbreaks at Kien-ning Fu).

(3) Wên-t'ien, the late Superintendent of Customs at Canton, reports the equipment of four large junks for the preventive service on the coast of the Sin-an and Hiang-shan districts (i.e. near Hongkong and Macao), in the multitudinous creeks and inlets to which the supervision of steam gunboats is unable to extend. The total outlay for these junks, including armament and equipment, has been Taels 13,723.

(4) Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chehkiang, memorializes observing that the main source of revenue in that province is the *likin* impost, and that this depends for the bulk of its yield upon the tax on silk. There has, however, been a continuous decline in the receipts of late years, owing to the falling off in the production of silk in the adjacent provinces. The yield in Chehkiang this year has been injuriously affected by the tempestuous weather of the past spring, and it is calculated that there will be a falling off of 20 or 30 per cent. on the amount usually collected. This deficiency will amount to not less than a sum of Taels 300,000—a prospect which excites feelings of the liveliest grief in the Governor's mind.

Sept. 6th.—(Court Circular.) Audience was this morning given to Kwoh Sung-t'ao (Envoy Designate to England.)

(1) Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chehkiang, repeats his application for permission to retire. The two months' leave granted to him on the occasion of his last application has now expired. In his impaired health he finds the responsibilities of his office too much for him, and is exercised lest he should be unequal to the task imposed upon him by the forthcoming civil and military examinations. He is advised by his medical attendant that if he now misses the opportunity of rooting out the disease, the time will come when it will be beyond the reach of medical treatment. The memorialist, who states that he is past fifty, yet hopes to enjoy many years of life, if his prayer is answered, and a successor be quickly appointed. The Rescript is as follows:—"Let Yang Chang-sün be again granted two months' sick leave; he need not vacate his post."

(2) The same high official reports that owing to the state of his health, he shall not be able to live in the Examination Hall during the approaching examinations as required by regulation. He has therefore requested the Literary Chancellor, Hu Jui-lan, to go in his stead.

(3) A memorial from the same states that the silk merchants having applied for a reduction of a certain tax of four dollars on each bale of silk, on the plea that the value of silk has fallen, the *likin* Board have consented to reduce the tax to \$2.40. The proceeds of this tax, which is a voluntary contribution over and above the *likin*, supply the funds required for building and keeping in repair the sea wall, 1,800 *chung* of which still remains to be done. The contribution has been paid for so many years that merchants look upon it as a matter of course, and in

the absence of other sources from which to draw, the reduced tax must continue to be collected, until such time as the works are completed, and there are funds sufficient for yearly repairs, when it will be abolished.

Sept. 7th.—(1) Hu Chung-ho (胡中和), late Commander-in-chief in Sze-chw'an, reports having given up charge to his successor, and proceeded to take up his new appointment as Commander-in-chief in Yünnan. The Imperial Decree transferring him to Yünnan, received by the Grand Secretariat on the 11th February last, commanded him to proceed at once to his new post, while Lien-ch'ang, Brigadier-General at Ch'ung-k'ing, was appointed acting Commander-in-chief, in Sze-chw'an, his vacancy being filled by T'ien Tsai-t'ien. It would have been the duty of Hu Chung-ho to proceed at once to take up his new appointment, but owing to the non-arrival of T'ien Tsai-t'ien at Ch'ung-k'ing, Lien-ch'ang could not at once leave that important post. This was represented to the Throne by the acting Governor-General, and a Decree hastening T'ien Tsai-t'ien's movements was the result. Lien-ch'ang, the newly appointed Commander-in-chief, having arrived at Ch'eng-tu on the 21st of July, Hu Chung-ho was enabled to hand over his seals of office, and take his departure for Yünnan. The Mohamedan rebellion, he remarks, has now been suppressed, but military authority has not yet been re-established. Disbanded volunteers, moreover, cause some anxiety in the province, and the writer, after consulting with the Governor-General of Sze-chw'an, resolved to engage five hundred Hunan "braves" to accompany him to Yünnan to re-enforce the army of that province, as has already been reported in an earlier memorial.

(2) P'an Ting-sin, acting-Governor of Yünnan, requests that the sub-prefect of Wu-ting, the magistrate of Kwang-tung, and the sub-prefect of Ning-Chow, who have been ordered to Peking for presentation at Court, may for the time be allowed to remain at their posts. It is pointed out that they have work in hand which cannot be cleared off in a moment, and that the reorganization of the districts after the rebellion requires the presence of men of ability. When the duties which now engage their attention are completed, they shall be directed to proceed to Peking.—Rescript: Let it be as requested. The Board of Civil appointments will take note.

(3) Ku-ni-yin-pu, Military Governor of Kirin, asks for the degradation of two

military officers who were despatched by Ts'ung-hwan, Lieutenant General at Altchuku, to effect the arrest of a band of brigands. According to the report supplied by these officers themselves, upon receiving intelligence that a force of banditti, numbering 20 or 30 men, had emerged from their retreat and pillaged a place called Wei-tze-kow, they set out in pursuit and came upon the brigands on the north side of the Hai-lu-k'wun river, where a severe loss was inflicted upon the band, the survivors escaping into the woods. Darkness coming on, these two officers did not venture to continue the chase, and accordingly withdrew their force to Wei-tzü-kow. The Military Governor remarks that there was nothing to prevent the Imperial troops annihilating the brigands, and to allow them to escape was an act of extreme cowardice. Just now, when every endeavour should be made to put down brigandage, remissness, however slight, cannot be tolerated, and it is requested that the two guilty officials be stripped of their rank, and allowed to retain their commands, in order that may have an opportunity of distinguishing themselves; and that should they on any future occasion be found wanting, they may be denounced in the most severe terms.—The Rescript concurs in this sentence.

Sept. 8th.—(1) An Imperial Decree.—We have heard with regret of the death of Wu T'ang 棠吳, who received last year permission to resign his post of Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, on account of ill-health. We command that the same honours be bestowed upon him as is usual in the case of a Governor-General, and that any faults he may have committed during his tenure of office be overlooked. Let the proper Board report upon the honours which should be conferred, and let the decree of *Kü jen* be conferred upon his son, that so our regard for a faithful Minister may be made manifest.

(2) The Tartar General and Lieutenant-General at Ning-hia, in Kansuh, report the result of their enquiries into the conduct of an official against whom had been brought charges of extortion and oppression. The officer in question was named Siang-sheng, and with him rested the management of all matters wherein Mongol interests were concerned. The office was held for three years, and every spring and autumn the incumbent made the circuit of the country committed to his care. In the region of A-la-shan, in Mongolia, Chinese cultivators from the adjoining province had occupied land,

and these men were compelled by Siang-sheng to take out yearly licenses. About fifty or sixty of these licenses were issued, a fee of five taels being levied on each, with five hundred *cash* extra for office expenses. Either one cultivator took out a license to himself, or three or four men clubbed together to buy one between them. During the term of office of the former Commissioner, the place had not yet been laid waste by the rebels, and the cultivators were prosperous enough to take up fifty-five licenses. The regulations allowed the cultivators to come in spring to prepare the ground and sow their grain, and required them to return to their own part of the country after the crops had been taken in. As they found they could not always sell their stocks before the time of their departure arrived, and as the journey back and forth often caused them to lose the season, they devoted the winter months to repairing the roads, and putting up store-houses for their grain. The Commissioner made this a pretext for extorting fees which amounted, according as the year was good or bad, to from six hundred to a thousand strings of *cash*. The Commissioner, in addition, was in the habit of making the Mongol officials provide him with the animals he required on his journeys. When, in 1873, the new Commissioner, Siang-sheng, was making his tour of inspection, he called upon the farmers of Sha-chin-t'ao-hai to renew their licenses, and unmindful of the fact that the T'eng-k'ow region had been laid waste by the rebels, he insisted on the same number of licenses being taken as during the incumbency of his predecessor, viz., fifty-five licenses at five taels, with five *candareens* extra for office expenses, as well as fees to the amount of a thousand strings of *cash*. The cultivators, unable to make up this sum, appealed to him to make a reduction, but this he declined to do, and they had nothing for it but to apportion the amount over the farms according to their size.

Another charge against Siang-sheng was this. The poor people of the neighbourhood were all natives of Ning-hia Fu, who had taken refuge in Sha-chin-t'ao-hai, beyond the frontier, when the country was ravaged by the rebels. Here they had established themselves as farmers or small shopkeepers, and although the Ning-hia districts were once more quiet, their houses and property had been all destroyed, and it was out of their power to return to their original homes. The Commissioner, Siang-

sheng, put out a proclamation calling upon the people to return, and told their headman that unless they returned to their old homes he would make him pay a thousand strings of *cash*. The headman, under pressure, promised to pay five hundred strings, and advised the people to make up the amount. They refused, and a disturbance was on the point of breaking out, when the Commissioner fixed his departure for the 30th January. He did not, as usual, lay the Mongol officials under contributions for animals, but on the 26th sent a large force of soldiers to get horses by force from all quarters. The indignation of the people was aroused, and the headman with some two hundred followers proceeded on the morning of the 27th to the residence of the Commissioner to proclaim their grievance, and deprecate the seizure of their cattle. They went empty handed, without a weapon amongst them, and arrived at the residence while the Commissioner was asleep. Roused by their clamouring and shouting he rushed out in a pair of trousers and with a cloth round his head; in his hand he held a sword which he brandished about calling out—"I am a soldier, and my name is Wang, who dares to make a disturbance?" Hereupon the mob armed themselves with sticks, and their leader rushed forward and secured the sword. The Commissioner and his followers were overpowered and bound until the people discovered that the man who had brandished the sword was not, as he had stated, a soldier named Wang, but the Commissioner himself. Thereupon he was released, and the headman, fearing that the affair might not end there, invited the interference of the officer in charge of army stores. This latter told the owners of cattle to retake possession of their animals and lead them home, and made the headman and others perform the *Ko-tow* before the Commissioner, after which the people dispersed. When the Commissioner returned to Ning-hia, the Mongol officials supplied him with twenty camels, and ten horses and mules. Upon his arrival at Ning-kia he returned to the Mongols twelve camels, and seven horses and mules. The remaining eleven animals he said had died.

The Tartar General observes that although the practice of exacting fees had long been in existence, Siang-sheng was none the less in fault. As to whether these sums illegally obtained should be recovered from Siang-sheng, and as to the manner in which these abuses should be put a stop to, are questions

which the Tartar General begs may be referred to the consideration of the Mongolian Superintendency, for the reason that he has no jurisdiction in Mongolian territory, and has no precedent on which to act. He considers Siang-sheng has further laid himself open to punishment in allowing his followers to harass the people on the most frivolous pretexts and indulge in every possible manner of extortion, whereby a serious riot was nearly brought about. Two men have died from wounds received in the scuffle at the Commissioner's residence, but whether the wounds were the immediate cause of death or not is now impossible to say, as no inquest was held, and the bodies are now past identification. Moreover, it appears they survived the period within which had they died death would have been directly attributable to the wounds. Whether or not, however, the accused official is to be arraigned on these charges, is a question which the Tartar General leaves to the Mongolian Superintendency. The Tartar General further indicates the degree of punishment which should be inflicted on the guilty clerks and soldiers, and an Imperial Rescript directs the Mongolian Superintendency to consider the matter and report.

(3) The Comptroller of the Household gives notice that on the 23th October next, Si-kwei, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Nanking, will have completed his year's tenure of office.

Sept. 9th.—(1) Ch'en Lan-pin (Envoy-designate to the United States, Spain and Peru), is named President of the Court of Sacrificial Ceremonies.

(2) The Military Governor of the Amur reports that Chih-ch'eng, a member of the Imperial lineage, who had been banished for numerous robberies, has made his escape from prison while undergoing his trial for acts of brigandage committed while in banishment. Men have been despatched to re-arrest him, and an inquiry is being held to discover how he contrived to make his escape. It appears that this criminal had previously succeeded in eluding his keepers six times in succession.

Sept. 10th.—(1) Fei Yen-li, Literary Chancellor of the province of Honan, memorializes requesting the admission of Liu Têh, the distinguished patron of learning under the Han dynasty (1st century B.C.) to sacrificial honours in the temple of Confucius, on the ground of the services rendered by him to the preservation of the canonical works. It was only when the Han emperors, he represents,

had substituted encouragement of the production of literary records to the interdict against their preservation which had previously been enacted that, little by little, the writings of the sages began to reappear, though of all the works of antiquity the Yih King was the only one that escaped intact from the fires of the Ts'in dynasty. Among the individuals to whom much was due at this period was Liu Têh, Prince of Hien, in the region of modern Shantung. The so-called ancient text of the Li Ki was recovered and preserved by his care.—A long disquisition follows here upon the various editions of the Record of Rites.—It is solicited that the precedent set in the case of Fuh Shêng, the transmitter of the text of the Book of History, and Mao Chang, the transmitter of the Odes, may be followed as regards Liu Têh, and that his name be enrolled in the sacrificial canon.—Referred for the consideration of the Board of Ceremonies.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes stating that, in obedience to instructions received, he has given orders that seven more witnesses who are required in the celebrated Chehkiang adultery and murder case, be at once taken to Peking. Two of them, women, begged to be excused, one on the plea that she suffered from fits, and the other because she had a child too young to leave behind. The Governor, while stating that he could not take it upon himself to excuse the attendance of these witnesses, after the Board of Punishments had applied for their production, observes that from the nature of the case the evidence of the parties to the crime is what is really wanted, and that outsiders can know nothing of the circumstances.

(3) The Governor of Chehkiang reports the death of Hing-kw'ei (興奎), the lately appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Province. Pending the appointment of a successor, he has directed T'ang Shu-shen (唐樹森) to discharge the duties of the office.

Sept. 11th.—(1) A Decree. A Censor reports to Us that he has heard that at the examination for the selection of provincial examiners this year, portions of the *P'ei wen yün fu* (Imperial Thesaurus of Literature) were taken in by the candidates to assist them in their papers, and he requests that regulations may be framed for the searching of candidates. Candidates for the post of provincial examiners should be actuated by feelings of self-respect, and it is incredible that they should conceal books about them with

the object of attaining undeserved success. On future occasions We command that a Prince be appointed to superintend the examinations, whose supervision is not to be considered a mere matter of form. Regulations for searching candidates are not necessary.

(2) The Governor of Shantung forwards the result of an investigation into an alleged case of murder in respect of which an appeal had been lodged at the Gendarmerie in Peking. The history of the case is this:—In 1865, a woman named Chow Wang, a native of Hai-feng Hien, in Shantung, finding herself in straitened circumstances, sold some acres of hill-land to one Liu Têh-wen. In the following year the woman and her brother, Wang Ping-yü, went on the land to cut brush-wood and grass for fuel. This they did on frequent occasions, until one day they were seen by Liu Têh-wen who raised objections. High words passed between them, and Liu struck the woman with his fist. She at once made complaint at the Magistracy, and Liu was summoned. Finding that the woman had received no wound, the Magistrate inflicted a slight punishment on Liu, and told the woman not to trespass on his land again. Later in the year the woman's brother, Wang Ping-yü, fell ill and died. His son, Wang Mei, aware that his father had previously quarrelled with Liu, entertained suspicions of foul play, but an inquest showed that death resulted from natural causes. The woman, however, still bearing malice on account of the old quarrel, bethought herself to trump up a charge against Liu, and she accused him before the authorities of having taken forcible possession of her property, and incited his son to take her brother Wang's life. A clerk in the Magistracy was bribed to forge a little deed in support of this accusation. By way of revenging herself on two other men who had once refused to lend her money, she charged them with inciting people to litigation, and instigating Liu to act as he had. When the time came for a judicial inquiry, the woman, aware how hollow was her case, failed to appear, but proceeded instead to lodge her complaint at the Capital. There, in addition to making her previous false charges, she said that her son had been waylaid and beaten on the road, and had disappeared, no one knew where. As it has now been proved that all these charges were false and malicious, the woman has made herself liable to punishment. For an offence of this nature the penalty is, 100 blows, perpetual banishment 3,000 li

off, and 3 years' penal servitude, but the law allows the penalty to be redeemed by payment of a money fine.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.

(3) The same high official reports that as a quantity of silks and satins from the Imperial manufactory at Nanking, destined for the use of the Court, was being conveyed through the district of Ts'i-ho (齊河縣), a band of robbers made a raid upon the party, and carried off goods to the value of Tls. 2,289. It is requested that the Magistrate of the district, and the officer in command of the military post may be stripped of their rank, and allowed to remain at their posts in order that they may exert themselves to recover the stolen goods, and secure the brigands. Should they fail to effect this within half a month, they will be denounced and severely punished. The remaining portion of the Imperial silks and satins has been sent on under escort.

Sept. 12th.—A Decree. The Governor-General and acting Governor of Yünnan request that rewards may be conferred upon certain officers who have distinguished themselves in retaking possession of the cities of Shun-ning Fu, T'eng-yüeh (Momein) and Yün Chow, after these were seized by the revolted soldiery in May last. Making arrears of pay a pretext, a certain individual named Su K'ai-sien broke into the government offices and made himself master of T'eng-yüeh, Shun-ning Fu and Yün Chow being subsequently pillaged by the lawless characters of the locality. Yang Yü-k'o, Commander-in-chief in Yünnan, was despatched by the Governor-General to restore order, and he has proved successful in regaining possession of the cities which had fallen into the hands of the insurgents, and, furthermore, in making their leader a prisoner. The country round Yung-ch'ang Fu and Mien-ning T'ing has been entirely cleared of rebels, and further steps are being taken to crush and extirpate any remnants of the movement. For distinguished service on the present occasion, We command that the following rewards be conferred. On Yang Yü-k'o We bestow a white jade thumb ring, a white jade feather holder, a white jade handled penknife, a pair of large purses, and a pair of small purses. (The rewards conferred on other officials occupy the next three pages.)

(2) Tsai-che and King-lién are named Superintendent and assistant-Superintendent of Customs at the Ts'ung-wên Gate

(i.e., the Collectors of Customs for Peking, for the ensuing twelve months.)

(3) Governor of Shansi reports the arrest and trial of a person named Kin Chih-chen against whom a charge of false accusation had been made many years ago. He could not be found at that time, but in 1874, in a list of appointments received from the Board of Civil office, it was found that his name appeared as having been appointed to an assistant supervisorship of instruction in Wen-shen Hien in Shansi. When he came to report himself at the office of the Financial Commissioner, he was arrested as a person against whom a warrant had been out for some years, and the Board of Civil office was requested to cancel his appointment. The facts elicited at the trial were as follows:—The accused, who was a native of Kiang Hien, had, after taking his first degree, purchased a nomination to an assistant supervisorship of instruction. He was waiting for a vacancy in Kiang Hien, when, in 1865, the Magistrate set about repairing the walls of the city. The country had not yet recovered from the ravages of the rebels, and the usual plan of dividing the work into so many sections, and apportioning it over different sections of country, could not be followed. It was therefore agreed at a meeting of the gentry and elders that half the sum required should be contributed by landowners in proportion to their holdings, and the other half should be subscribed amongst persons of means. In this manner Kin Chih-chen ought to have contributed both as a landowner and a man of wealth, and in this latter capacity, even more liberally than other persons, but he requested the Magistrate that he might be called upon to contribute only as a landowner. Knowing that he was the richest man in the district, and that the system of contribution had been arrived at by common consent, the Magistrate refused to entertain the request, and in this he was supported by the Committee of notables and elders. The mode of getting the work done, by levying contributions in proportion to the amount of land tax paid, led Kin Chih-chen to suspect this was an illegal increase of land tax. He preferred a charge against the Magistrate, but because the *taotai* did not summons him to attend, Kin Chih-chen imagined that his complaint had not been entertained. Just at this period he was called away on business affairs to Honan, and went away without knowing how the affair had been dealt with. The accusations brought against the Magistrate of Kiang Hien by a

member of the Censorate were in effect of a similar nature to those previously lodged by Kin Chih-chen, and when an investigation shewed that Kin Chih-chen had preferred false charges in a spirit of malice, an Imperial Decree was obtained ordering his arrest and punishment. His continued absence prevented the immediate execution of the warrant, but now that the accused has returned the case may be settled out of hand. The memorialist on behalf of the accused states that although the charges made by him against the Magistrate were false, Kin Chih-chen had some cause for the suspicions he entertained, for as a matter of fact the manner of getting the walls repaired was not usual, and the contributions required from landowners were levied in proportion to the land tax. It cannot be said that he was influenced by malice and resentment, neither, seeing the circumstances under which he left, can he be charged with having purposely hung back when required to substantiate his charges. The penalty which the law requires under these circumstances is eighty blows, but as the sentence was given before the general amnesty proclaimed last year, Kin Chih-chen is entitled to a remission. Whether he is to receive another appointment, is for the Board of Civil office to decide.

(4) The acting Governor-General of Shêng-king sends estimates for an official residence for the Tartar Lieutenant-General at Hingking. There was no vacant ground available, but certain premises were found which the owners were willing to sell for 19,720 strings of *cash*. Over and above the old materials on the ground, the sum of Tls. 5,480 will be required for materials, and Tls. 1,296 for work. In due time estimates will be sent forward for soldiers' barracks.

(5) The Governor of Shansi states that it having come to the ears of the Brigadier General at Ta-t'ung that Captain Ts'in, who is stationed at Ling-k'iu, was engaged in an intrigue with the wife of a man named Chao, and that the woman was living with him in his official residence, he was on the point of setting inquiries on foot, when a resident of Ling-k'iu Hien, a person named Wang, presented a petition reporting the *liaison*, and the pecuniary contributions under which the couple were laying the soldiery. Captain Ah-ch'ang-ah was at once despatched to investigate the affair, and that officer's report is to the effect that Chao and his wife, flying before the rebels, came from Shansi to Ling-k'iu. Thence they removed to Hwun-yuan, and

later went away, it is not known where. Captain Ts'in had no *liaison* with Chao's wife, neither did he receive her in his official residence, neither did they exact money from the soldiers. All this is false. But Captain Ts'in did certainly on one occasion go to Hwun-yuan on the plea that some official matter required his presence there, and in thus leaving the barracks without permission, he has been guilty of an offence. The Governor remarks that, although all the charges against Captain Ts'in appear to be unfounded, still he absented himself without leave, and caused people to talk about him. No laxity of the kind can be tolerated, and it is requested that he be immediately cashiered.

The charges brought forward in Wang's petition having proved groundless, an inquiry will be held to ascertain whether he was moved to the act by resentment, in order that people may be deterred from spreading malicious rumours.

Sept. 13th.—(1) A decree. The Governor-General of Sze-chw'an denounces Chang K'i-ch'ang, Magistrate of the Fêng-ki district, for being in arrears in remitting taxes already received. The amount collected by him, but thus far not remitted, is over Tls. 31,860, and, as the period of grace allowed him has elapsed, We command that he be stripped of his rank, arrested, and brought to trial; and further, that his property be seized and sequestered.

(2) A decree. Let Wang Chih-t'ang, late Magistrate of the Lo-chih district in Sze-chw'an, who has up to the present failed to remit Tls. 7,200 of taxes collected by him, be arrested and brought to trial, and let his property be sequestered; and further let the clerks through whose hands the taxes passed, be examined, in order that it may be ascertained whether the money was appropriated by him, or misapplied.

(3) A decree. Li Kwang-t'ing, who, while acting as Magistrate of the district of Wên-kiang, was in arrears in remitting the taxes collected by him, has now decamped, leaving Tls. 6,600 of taxes to be accounted for. We command that his property be sequestered, and that every endeavour be made to effect his arrest.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, has received a report from King Fu (景福), Superintendent of Customs at Shan Hai Kwan (and Newchwang), stating that the fixed amount, and supplementary amount of duties, for the twelve months ending 22nd March,

1876, have been collected in full, but that under the head of "extra supplementary" amount, only Tls. 62,775.3.5 instead of Tls. 80,000 were received. From this amount, Tls. 61,940.0.2.7, on account of remission of duty on grain junks has been subtracted, and the balance of Tls. 835,2.7.8 has been sent to the Board of Revenue. The Superintendent of Customs further states that, owing to the insufficiency of his receipts under the head of "extra supplementary" amount, he is unable to comply with the orders of the Board of Revenue, which require him to repay from the native Customs the 2-5ths of the foreign Customs revenue which the Military Governor of Manchuria has received permission to borrow since 1867.

(5) The Literary Chancellor of the province of Kwangtung reports having seized two men who presented themselves as substitutes at the Lo-ting Chow examinations. For a long time one of them refused to give his name, but after a rigorous examination he was induced to confess that his name was Yin Kwang-chao (尹光照), and that he had held office from 1870 to 1874 as district instructor. The Chancellor considers it most improper that an officer of instruction, who ought to set an example to others, should act as substitute in the district examinations. It is requested that the offender be stripped of his rank, in order that he may be punished according to law.—A Rescript grants this request.

(6) The Governor-General of Chihli and Superintendent of Trade for the Northern Ports transmits the accounts of the Superintendent of Customs at Shan Hai Kwan for the year ending 22nd March, 1876. For all the Custom Houses, whether inland or on the seaboard, the full amount was collected, viz, fixed yearly amount, Tls. 61,642.3.7.9; and supplementary amount Tls. 49,487. The following charges on the fixed yearly amount were made:—

Salaries of officers of the Shan	Tls.
Hai Kwan garrison	1,565.9.5
Pay of forces.....	20,623
Half ration commutation ...	12,495
Remission of 1-5th duty on goods conveyed in grain junks, and of whole duty on bean cake and beans...	42,438.1.4.7
Miscellaneous	1,305.2.7.8

Showing an excess of expenditure over receipts of Tls. 25,898.4.5.7 which has been made good out of the extra supplementary amount. On the supplementary amount the following charges were made:—

Anti-extortion allowance of officers at Moukden	1,579.8.8
Allowance to Board of Revenue officers.....	1,490
Remittance to Grand Secretariat	4,200
Pay of soldiers in the Lieutenant-General's Yamên at Shan Hai Kwan.....	5,400
Bullet and gunpowder factory	1,700.1.4.2
Fodder for Cavalry	4,756
Anti-extortion allowance of Military Governor.....	4,000
Ditto ditto of Civil Governor	3,000
Ditto ditto Lieut. Governor	1,000
Stationery	2,400
Police	1,000
Rent at various stations	463
Hollow logs bound with iron for sycee	769.8.9.2.6
Miscellaneous	461
Total.....	31,536.9.1.4

The balance of Tls. 17,950.0.8.5.4 has been sent to the Military Governor at Moukden. (N. B.—There must be an error in the statement of items, as the total above given is incorrect.)

(7) Another memorial supports an application on the part of the Superintendent of Customs at Shan Hai Kwan, who requests that a portion of the foreign Customs duties received at Newchwang may be applied to make up the deficiency in the "extra supplementary" fixed amount in last year's accounts. The Superintendent of Customs states that the fixed annual amount, and the fixed supplementary amount, were collected in full, but under the head "extra supplementary" amount, only Tls. 62,775.3.0.5 were received, instead of Tls. 80,000, as required by regulation, leaving a deficit of Tls. 17,224.6.9.5. This falling off is attributed by the Superintendent to the fact that Chinese merchants make their shipments in foreign vessels, the result of which is that the foreign Customs' collectorate encroaches on the receipts of the native Customs. The year before last the foreign Customs collected Tls. 192,000, of which amount Tls. 130,000 were contributed by Chinese merchants. The merchandize represented by this would, according to the Board of Revenue's tariff, have paid Tls. 96,900. Last year, the foreign Customs receipts were Tls. 239,000, of which Tls. 184,000 were collected from Chinese merchants. This represents Tls. 118,000 of duty levied under the Board of Revenue's tariff. It thus appears that while the total receipts of the foreign Custom House were

larger by Tls. 47,000 than in the previous year, the receipts from Chinese owned goods showed an increase of Tls. 54,000 during the same period. The Superintendent, although he earnestly devotes himself to his duties, is not able to divert the course of events which thus leads to the foreign Customs trenching on the native Custom House. He begs that, as has already been done previously, he may make good his deficit out of that portion of the foreign Customs revenue of which the native Customs have been deprived. Li Hung-chang himself, commenting on the above, remarks that if Chinese owned merchandize is carried in foreign vessels, the native Custom House is naturally a loser. Last year the duties paid at the foreign Customs by native owned merchandize were Tls. 54,000 in excess of the previous year, yet the native Custom House collected Tls. 2,200 more than the previous year, which shows that the Superintendent is not to be charged with laxity. It is, therefore, recommended that the deficit of Tls. 17,224.6.9.5 in the "extra supplementary" amount, may be made good out of the revenue of which the foreign Customs have deprived the native Custom House, and that when more prosperous times arrive, the old plan may be reverted to; for to make it a matter of course that deficits should always be so covered would open the door to every kind of abuse.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

Sept. 14th. — (1) The Censor Kw'ei Kwang begs that the Governor-General of Sze-chw'an may be directed to make inquiries in the following matter. It having been reported to the Censor that a man named Yuan T'ing-kiao had secretly made his way to Peking after raising a disturbance in the district of Tung-Hiang (東鄉縣) in Sze-chw'an, he despatched a body of police to arrest the individual. On being examined the prisoner stated that he had proceeded, two years ago, to Peking, to prefer a complaint against the Magistrate of Tung-hiang in connection with the Land Tax. Last year the Magistrate and gentry again oppressed the people beyond endurance, and the prisoner assembled a crowd to go and examine the Land Tax accounts with the Committee of gentry. The Magistrate, under the pretext that the people had risen in rebellion, applied to the Commander-in-Chief to put down the disturbance. Thereupon the prisoner took himself off, but he subsequently learnt that

the Commander-in-Chief and his force had carried off all his relations, and put to death over one thousand innocent persons, burning, besides, some five hundred houses, and seizing two hundred women and girls. The prisoner came to Peking for the purpose of denouncing these atrocities, but was arrested before he could do so. Upon this the Censor remarks that Yuan T'ing-kiao's story may or may not be true, but it would be well that he be detained in custody until inquiries can be made in Szech'wan.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 3rd instant.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Sze-chw'an, reports being about to proceed to his new post. After reaching his native province, he applied for and received one month's sick leave, his instructions being to repair to Sze-chw'an immediately after, without proceeding to Peking for presentation. Although he has not yet entirely recovered his health, he will not venture to delay any longer, but purposes starting on the 25th August, in order that Wên Kêh, who has been appointed to the Governorship of Yünnan, may repair to his post.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsi reports that it having been ascertained that Yuan Fu-t'ing, the officer in charge of the *Likin* station at Ku-t'ang (at the entrance to the Poyang Lake), was in the habit of absenting himself from his post, he gave instructions that this officer's movements should be inquired into. It now appears that Yüan Fu-t'ing proceeded to his post at Ku-t'ang on the 19th September, 1875, and that he left it again on the 9th December for Nan-ch'ang Fu, where he remained until the 3rd of March. Again, on the 4th April, 1876, he returned to the provincial Capital, and though more than two months and a half had now elapsed he had not yet gone back to his post. Meanwhile the collection of *Likin* was left to his underlings, and merchants were complaining of the irregularities which abound under this regime. This officer has now been removed, and another appointed in his place, and it is requested that he may be immediately stripped of his rank.—A Rescript sanctions the above request.

Sept. 15th.—(1) The Governor of Honan having been instructed to hear a case in which an appeal had been presented at Peking, sends a report of the facts as elicited by him. The appellant, Ma S'hen-lin, had a son named Ma Chang-chih, and a nephew, Ma Kw'ei-chu, who both led dissolute lives. As the father was usually away from home, he was in ignorance of their mode of living, and was

not in a position to exercise any restraint over them. There was another nephew who died leaving a widow, the woman Yüan. A man named Lu Pu-chou, who had been on intimate terms with the deceased husband, frequently went to see her. Ma Chang-chih suspecting that there was something improper in this, went and had some words with Lu, when some friends stepped in, and put a stop to the quarrel. In 1875, Ma Kw'ei-chu and Ma Chang-chih, who had been apprehended and convicted on a charge of burglary, both died in prison. An inquest was held, and it was proved that death did not result from torture or ill-treatment. When the father heard of the death, and remembered that bad blood had existed between his son and Lu, he suspected that the latter had bribed the police to arrest his son, and to inflict such torture as led to his death. He accordingly set out for Peking, and made the false accusation which was referred to the Governor for inquiry. By law the father has incurred a penalty of 100 blows for failing to restrain his son from vicious courses. He should also be punished for presenting a false accusation, but in consideration of his great affection for his son, and of the fact that he acknowledged his error, this second offence may be overlooked. The first penalty he has redeemed by a fine as the law allows, and he has now been set at liberty.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsi presents a memorial. After the suppression of the rebellion in Kiangsi, orders for the remittance of money to other quarters became so frequent that, in the embarrassed state of the Treasury, the Provincial authorities were compelled to reduce the military establishment of the province. The strength of the land forces was so low that there were barely men enough to garrison the province, and in the still disturbed state of the country great difficulty was encountered in maintaining order. Now that the fort at Hu-k'ou (湖口), at the entrance of the Poyang lake, is finished, it becomes necessary to man it with men accustomed to handle foreign artillery, but as there are no funds on which to draw, the Governor has had to consult with the military authorities as to what further reductions could be made in other directions. After anxious deliberation it has been determined to put out of commission forty small gunboats in the inner waters, and discharge their crews, and with the saving thus effected it will be possible to engage men of experience to man the fort,

and be available for emergencies. Two officers have been sent to An-hwui to form two battalions of 300 men each.

(3) The acting Governor-General of Hu Kwang sends the result of an inquiry into the conduct of a Captain and a Colonel who had already been removed from their posts. On receipt of an Imperial Decree ordering their degradation and trial, the Governor-General directed Sun Chia-ku, *Taotai* of the King-Yi-Shih circuit, to summon the accused and witnesses before him. The following is the history of the case:—Captain Hwang Chan-ch'ao, of the Wei-ch'ang battalion, was ordered to go to the provincial Capital to draw funds. He was given a form of requisition duly made out, but on the plea that it might not have been properly filled up, he persuaded his Colonel to stamp another blank form, so that he might make any necessary corrections. After drawing the money from the Provincial Treasury, he remembered that in the years 1861, 1863, 1866, and 1867, the battalion had advanced Tls. 294 for the purchase of twenty-one horses. Imagining that it was a convenient opportunity to draw the amount, he filled in the blank form with his Colonel's name, and presented the requisition, his intention being to report the matter when he returned to head-quarters. It was found at the Treasury that the amount had already been paid, and the affair was reported to the Brigadier-General. Hence the dismissal, degradation, and present inquiry. Hwang Chan-ch'ao in his defence states that his recollection of the previous years' transactions was dim, and it was thus he came to claim an account already paid. It was his full intention to report the matter on his return to the battalion, and he had no idea of appropriating the money to his own use. Colonel Kwan Hung-chao in explanation avers that he knew nothing of Hwang Chan-ch'ao's doings, and was not in collusion with him. The way he came to stamp a blank requisition was that he was not well versed in the ways of the battalion.—The Governor-General's decision is that the Captain is acquitted of having been actuated by any dishonest motives; still, to forge his superior officer's name was an offence rendering him liable to 100 blows. As, however, the general amnesty was proclaimed subsequently to the commission of the offence, he is entitled to the remission of this penalty. His degradation is, however, to remain in force. As to Colonel Kwan, who ought to have set an example to the regiment, it was his duty to be acquainted with the affairs of the battalion. Although he is

acquitted of collusion, still he deserves punishment. As however he has been stripped of his rank, no more need be said of the matter.

Sept. 16th.—(1) A Decree. Shên Pao-cheng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, requests that another officer may be appointed in the place of Li Ch'êng-mow (李成謀), Commander-in-chief on the Yangtze, who has been compelled to vacate his post, and retire into mourning for the death of his mother. Li Ch'êng-mow's indefatigable exertions, and thorough knowledge of naval matters, have done much to improve the service. It is Our desire that his appointment be changed to that of an acting incumbency of the post, and on the expiration of one hundred days' mourning We command that he return to his duties. Bearing in mind with what purpose We sent him to this post, he must not persist in vacating it. During Li Ch'êng-mow's absence, Wu Kia-pang (吳家榜) (now stationed at Kwachow), will act as Commander-in-chief.

(2) A Decree. The Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and the Governor of Kiangsu, denounce the following officials for the offences hereafter mentioned. Hsü Sung-süan (許誦宣), acting Magistrate of Kiang-ning Hien (Nanking), for that, while Magistrate of T'ung-shan Hien, he instituted no inquiry into the case of a woman committing suicide after having been violated. Kan Shao-p'an, Magistrate of Ts'ung-ming, and Yü Lin-nien, Sub-Prefect of Hai-men, for that they attempted to throw upon each other the responsibility of inquiring into a case where a man had been beaten and drowned. Chow Tso-yung, Magistrate of Tan-t'u, for that when one man accused another of violating his wife and causing her to commit suicide, the Magistrate merely sent his police to look into the matter, instead of proceeding in person. Let the above officials be stripped of their rank and proceeded against.

(3) P'an Ting-sin, acting Governor of Yunnan, at the request of Ts'ên Yü-ying, late Governor of the province, presents a memorial stating that the latter handed over the Governor's seals to P'an Ting-sin, pending the arrival of Wen-Kên, the newly appointed Governor, on the 17th May last; and, farther, that Ts'ên Yü-ying, having disposed of all the business he had in hand, purposed leaving for his home, there to mourn for his adopted mother, on the 14th of August.

(4) Wen-chih (文治), Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Soochow,

reports that he has sent forward the silk and satin articles required for the year. The total value amounts to Tls. 82,000.

Sept. 17th.—(1) A Decree. Li Hung-chang reports to Us in sundry memorials and postscript memorials, stating that in obedience to Our decree he had proceeded with all despatch to Chefoo, to take action in conference with the British Envoy on the subject of the Yünnan affair. The British official Interpreter Ma-kia-li (Margary) having been murdered on the frontier of Yünnan, in the district of T'êng-yüeh, the local civil and military officials have rendered themselves liable to punishment for their shortcoming in having failed to take due care for his protection, and it would be right that they should be punished each in conformity with the circumstances of the case. Inasmuch, however, as Li Hung-chang represents that the British Envoy, Wei T'o-ma, considering security for the future to be preferable to vengeance for the past, has requested that the prisoners awaiting sentence be exempted from punishment. We command that this request be complied with. Apart from the cases of the acting Brigadier-General of T'êng-yüeh, Tsiang Tsung-han, and the Sub-Prefect of T'êng-yüeh, Wu K'i-liang, who have both already been cashiered, and who require no further notice, We decree that the sentences which are entailed by law upon Li Chên-kwoh, the military officer now cashiered, and Urh T'ung Wa. La Tu, and the other (Kakhyen) prisoners, eleven in all, be as an act of grace remitted. Nevertheless, [it is to be remembered that] Ma-Kia-li was an official acting under the orders of the British Government, to whom a passport had been issued for his journey by way of Yünnan to Burmah, and to whom, both going and returning, it was a duty to afford protection. That he should have encountered so unhappy an end, and that the officers with whom he was travelling should have been attacked and obstructed in their advance, was an entire departure from the Sovereign's desire for [the maintenance of] friendly relations. The Governors-Generals and Governors of all the Provinces must henceforward zealously fulfil the injunctions conveyed in Our decree of the eleventh day of the ninth moon of last year (9th October, 1875), in issuing stringent instructions to their subordinates to the effect that, for the future, subjects of all nationalities, who may be travelling in the interior under passport, must be accorded the treatment secured to them by Treaty, and afforded efficient protection.

The authorities, high and low, of the province concerned, shall be held responsible in the event of injury or maltreatment being inflicted in contravention of the treaties.

We farther command the Yamên of Foreign Affairs to draw up a proclamation, to be sent by them to all provincial governments, who will take the proper action thereupon. The local authorities of all such provinces are bound to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the treaties, to the end that peaceful relations may be maintained between China and Foreign States. Should any foreign subject or official meet a violent death, let them with all promptitude take measures for the apprehension of the actual offender, and provide for the adjudication of the case within a given period. Let them not indulge in arbitrary delays, whereby they would expose themselves to merited punishment.

The case of Ma-Kia-li being now terminated, for such measures as concern the Yünnan frontier trade, We ordain that, when officers shall be appointed for the purpose by the British Government, the Governor-General and Governor of Yünnan shall appoint competent officers of rank to proceed to the frontier of the said province to acquaint themselves with the condition of affairs, and agree in concert upon the regulations to be framed, reporting to Us at the proper time for action thereupon.

(2) A Decree. Let Li Hung-chang lay strict injunctions on the departments and districts which are in arrears, to send in their contributions of grain for the supply of the garrison at Jehol.

(3) The Censor Lin Kung-ch'ü complains that the scholarships which were founded for the encouragement of learning are now being made matter of traffic. There is a fixed number of scholars of the *siu-t'sai* degree receiving a certain allowance from government, and when any of the recipients pass out of the list, either on account of promotion to a higher class, or the death of a parent, the vacancy is filled from the next grade of students, according to seniority. These stipendiary scholars, being well aware of the eagerness of those next below them to fill their places, make every sort of difficulty about vacating their scholarships, and this has been going on for so many years that the evil has grown into an established custom. The man entitled to the scholarship has to satisfy the demands of the man in possession, before the latter will surrender his place. This abuse has come to such a pass that scholars actually bribe holders

of scholarships to give them up by falsely representing themselves to the authorities as natives of some other district, and consequently not entitled to the stipend they are receiving. The result of all this is that a scholar not only makes money by selling his place, but by a fraud gets himself put on the list of some other district, to the exclusion of some lawful candidate. The remedy suggested by the Censor is that a certain time should be allowed to a man who has to surrender his scholarship on promotion, and that in the case of a man claiming to be a native of some other district than the one in which he is actually receiving a stipend, strict inquiries should be made into the truth of his statement. Where it is discovered that students are trafficking in these scholarships, both seller and purchaser should be degraded and punished.—For Rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst.

(4) The Literary Chancellor of Kiangsi reports that while holding the district examinations in Wan-tsai Hien, certain of the students who had been discovered with papers concealed about them, turned upon and beat the proctors. When summoned by the Chancellor, the students had the audacity to charge the proctors with passing in papers from substitutes. Upon being told to produce these papers, and point out the substitutes, they had not a word to say. A noisy disturbance followed, during which the students ignored all authority. The ringleaders were noted, and the examinations proceeded with. The examinations being now over, the Governor of the Province has been requested to cause the apprehension and punishment of the principal offenders.

Sept. 18th.—(1) A Decree. The under-mentioned Literary Chancellors are appointed:—

To Shun-t'ien Fu.....	Ho T'ing-k'ien.
„ An-hwui	Yang Hung-ki.
„ Kiangsi	Wu Jen-chieh.
„ Chehkiang	Hwang Cho.
„ Fuhkien	Sun I-king.
„ Hupeh	Liang Yao-chu.
„ Hunan	Chu Yiu-jan.
„ Honan	Hung-ki.
„ Shantung	Niu Yü-keng.
„ Shansi	Chu Fu-ki.
„ Shensi	Ch'ên Yi.
„ Sze-chw'an	T'an Tsung-sün.
„ Kwei-chow	Chang Têng-ying.

(2) The President of the Board of Revenue, to whom had been referred the accounts of Yoh Lin, Superintendent of Customs for the Eastern half of Peking, for the year ending 1st August, 1876, presents a memorial reviewing these accounts.

From Yoh Lin's memorial, which is quoted, it appears that during the twelve months under consideration, the octroi on cattle amounted to Tls. 17,933.4.5, and the land and house tax to Tls. 7,686 0.5.7. Deducting from the former item the sum of Tls. 10,008, which is the regulation fixed amount, there remains the sum of Tls. 7,925.4.5. Out of this, the sum of Tls. 6,173.2.1.4.0.5.5 was expended on stabling and fodder for sacrificial animals, and office expenses, thus leaving Tls. 1,752.2.2.5.9.5.5 towards the regulation excess, which, however, is fixed at Tls. 18,000. This deficit of Tls. 16,247.7.6.4.0 5.5 is due, so states the Superintendent of Customs, to the long drought in spring, which not only prevented cattle dealers pasturing their animals by the road side, but compelled them to buy fodder at unusually high rates. A further discouragement to dealers was the great difference between the value of silver in Peking, and in the country. The purchase of sacrificial animals, and the remission of duty on cavalry horses, make up an item of Tls. 15,829.1.2. This swallows up the whole of the regulation fixed amount, as well as Tls. 5,821.1.1.2 of the land and house duty. The President of the Board of Revenue suggests that as there is cause shewn for the deficit, the penalty of two years' pay, which the Superintendent has incurred, may be remitted, and further, that in accordance with the precedent set in 1873 and 1874, the deficit which the Superintendent has to make good may be reduced by 2-5ths, leaving 3 5ths or Tls. 9,748.6.5.8.4.3.3 to provide, and that as the law prescribes, this amount be made good within three years. For the future, the Superintendents must be made to understand that this remission is not to be taken as a matter of course, but that they are expected to collect the full amount required by regulation. In conclusion it is requested that the outgoing Superintendent may be directed to send in detailed accounts explaining the item of Tls. 15,829.1.2 for sacrificial animals and remission of duty on cavalry horses. [A Decree sanctioning the suggestions above contained appeared in the *Gazette* of 7th September.]

(3) A memorial in similar terms deals with the accounts of the Superintendent of Customs for the Western division of Peking.

Sept. 19th.—(1) Kwoh Sung-t'ao (Envoy designate to England) is named acting Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies in the place of Hwang-cho, appointed Literary Chancellor for Chehkiang.

(2) A Decree. The remains of the late Grand Secretary, Wên-siang, leave to-morrow for the ancestral abode. We command that the *Beiléh* Tsai Ch'êng attend to offer libations.

(3) Ch'un-fu, Lieut.-General at Ts'ing-chow, in Shantung, reports that an offer having been made by certain officials to provide swords and tents for the public service in the place of those that had become useless, he informed them that if they really wished to thus contribute to the State, the articles they provided must be substantial and well made. They have now invited him to inspect 1,024 swords and 96 tents made at their expense, and both in workmanship and material he has found these to be of very good quality. His Majesty is requested to deign to accept these articles, and, notwithstanding the desire of the officers to the contrary, it is suggested to him that some reward be conferred on them.—A Rescript confers on these officers buttons of the second class.

(4) For the Colonelcy at Hwei-chow Fu, in Kwangtung, caused by the death of Ch'ên Yü-fa, the Governor-General and Commander-in-chief in Kwang-tung recommend Colonel Ts'in Feng-shân (秦鳳山), in preference to others who have prior claims but are not so well suited for the post.

(5) The Censor King-lien brings to the notice of His Majesty an instance of a wife's devotion which had passed unnoticed for many years. When the city of Nan-feng Hien, in Kiangsi, was taken by the rebels in 1875, a man named Wu Ch'eng-ên fell at the head of his men. His wife on receipt of the news immediately committed suicide. The circumstance having been brought to his notice by a relation of the deceased, the Censor will not venture to withhold the fact from His Majesty's knowledge. [A Decree ordering the Governor of the province to memorialise on the subject has already appeared.]

Sept. 20th. — (1) The Governor of Anhwei reports the re-establishment, in obedience to commands received at the instance of the Board of Revenue, of the Custom Houses formerly existing at Wu-hu and Fêng-yang Fu. The Taotais respectively concerned having despatched officials to Peking for the purpose of obtaining from the Board of Revenue copies of the regulations and other needful records, together with sets of standard weights and measures, an establishment of clerks has been engaged on the return of these emissaries, and new buildings erected on the sites of the former Custom Houses. All preparations

being thus complete, the collectorate was inaugurated at both establishments on the 1st of the 6th moon (July 21), and the *likin* stations existing at the same places have been abolished, being superseded by the Custom Houses. The Governor points out that, although every effort will be used for the successful management of these offices, yet, owing to the length of time they have been in abeyance, their restoration is now tantamount, under the altered circumstances of the day, to an entirely new undertaking. He will be able to report, after the system has been worked for two or three months, whether it is likely to yield prosperous results.

(2) The Governor of Anhwei reports on the measures necessary to meet the deficit in the grain allowance, forming part of the pay of the provincial troops for the current year, which is caused by the falling off in the amount of rice actually levied, in money or kind, during the previous twelve months. The grain allowance to the provincial troops is as follows:—

Money commutation, equal to	
<i>Piculs</i>	8,730.6
Issue in kind, <i>Piculs</i>	24,216.6

Total..... 32,947.2

From the issue in kind a deduction under a special heading, amounting to *piculs* 1,680, has to be made. The total amount of grain collected was, however, only *piculs* 12,391.8., and the money equivalent of the quantity not forthcoming, calculated at Tls. 1.3 per *picul*, amounts to Tls. 13,135. Authority is requested for the issue of this sum from the proceeds of the land tax.—Granted by rescript.

(3) The same official reports with reference to the extra taxation imposed on the lands of eleven districts bordering upon the Yangtze for the purpose of refunding the amount of Tls. 269,480, advanced as a loan for the repair of the embankments which were destroyed by the floods of 1869. It was provided at the time that repayment was to be effected by means of an assessment *pro rata* accompanying the land tax, spread over a period of six years, beginning with 1871. Postponements of the levy have been granted in the last year or two in several of the districts affected, in consideration of the losses again sustained from flood or drought; and the particulars of the amounts actually collected are now set forth.

Sept. 21st.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., etc., reporting a great victory over the Mahomedan rebels

and the capture of the cities of Urumtsi and Tih-hwa Chow. The memorial relates that in July last, the Taotai Liu Kin-t'ang, in obedience to the orders received by him from Tso, advanced at the head of his own troops and the force commanded by Kin Shun, the lieutenant general of Urumtsi, proceeding from Tsi-mu-sa westwards. The insurgent leader Peh-yen-hu

白彥虎 withdrew from Hung Miao-tsze (Red Temple) to the Ku Mu region, where he made a stand supported by the Mussulman chieftain of those parts, and aided also by a force despatched under a leader by the Andijani. (N.B.)—Andijan

安集延 is the designation applied by the Chinese, from the well-known city of that name, to the Kokandis in Kashgaria; and the term is here probably used to denote the government of Yakub Khan, composed, as it is, to a large extent of natives of Kokand.) The rebels were attacked and defeated with great loss, the troops pursuing them up to the immediate vicinity of Urumtsi; and a vigorous attack was made on the place on the 16th August, when a breach was effected in the walls by means of heavy artillery. On the following day, August 17th, the troops took the city by storm, when six or seven thousand of the most desperate among the rebels who defended it were massacred to the last man. The success was followed on the 18th by a continued advance against the fortifications still held by the rebels, which were taken and destroyed, and the Imperial troops thus regained entire possession of the two (adjacent) cities of Urumtsi and Tih-hwa Chow. The number of heads brought in is beyond computation. The achievement thus reported is a distinguished success; and the strategy displayed by Tso, together with the bravery and vigour shewn by Liu and Kin Shun, are equally deserving of commendation. They are called upon to lay a report before the Throne of the officers who have most distinguished themselves; and at the same time to continue with energy their operations against rebels, and in especial to discover the whereabouts of Peh-yen-hu, the insurgent-leader, in order that he may not escape from the net of justice, so that tranquillity may be restored to the border region.

(2) A decree referring to the suppression of a local rising in Kansuh, heretofore reported by Tso Tsung-t'ang, and awarding a penalty to the department Magistrate concerned for neglect of duty in the matter. The rising appears to have been provoked by the action of the assistant Magistrate,

who imposed an assessment upon the people for the rebuilding of his Yamén after it had been destroyed by fire.

(3) Liu Ch'ang-yao, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, and P'an Ting-sin, acting Governor of Yünnan, reports in a voluminous memorial the measures taken to suppress the outbreak in the southwest of the province and the particulars of the successes achieved. The revolt which took place in May last is ascribed to the instigation of one Su K'ai-sien, a native of T'êng-yüeh (Momein), who appears to have been heretofore recommended for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In conjunction with one Wang Tao-she (Wang the priest), he formed a league with the banditti of Sanda, whom he introduced into the city on the approach of the government troops (reference is here made to a previous memorial not published in the *Gazette*), and fortified the place with a large number of redoubts outside the walls. The state of affairs at T'êng-yüeh encouraged other local outbreaks toward the end of June at Shun-ning and Yün Chow, and also in Yung-ch'ang Fu. In the last-named prefecture a local leader named Li Ch'ao, who had only lately been reduced to submission, broke out again at the head of a body of upwards of 1,000 of his partisans, occupied various stations on the post road, and threatened the communications of the force advancing on T'êng-yüeh by a design to seize the bridge over the Salween (Lu Kiang.) The local outbreaks were, however, successfully grappled with by the various civil and military officials concerned, and on the 21st July the Brigadier-General Tsiang Tsung-han arrived at the head of his force in front of T'êng-yüeh. The exterior defences having been taken, mines were run up to the walls, and the first explosion was made at daylight on the 3rd August, but owing to the great thickness of the terreplein an entrance could not be effected. A second explosion, toward midnight, was more successful, and the troops secured a lodgment within the wall. Some severe fighting is described as having ensued, the troops being completely victorious in the end. Several hundreds of the insurgents were slain, and great numbers perished by drowning in the ponds. The two leaders, Su K'ai-sien and Wang Tao-she, took to flight in despair; but Wang was captured by the pursuing force, so severely wounded as to be unable to speak, and was at once beheaded. Su K'ai-sien and two other leaders were captured immediately afterwards and were committed to durance. It is added that the original outbreak at T'êng-yüeh was

the work of only a few hundred of the trainbands, under Su K'ai-sien, but that the revolt was strengthened by the accession of a band of about 1,000 partisans recruited from Sanda and Nantien by Wang the priest. The Governor-General acknowledges, in conclusion, that this speedy termination of the insurgent movement, at so remote a point upon the frontier, is more than he had expected at the outset. Orders have been issued to Sieh King-ch'un, acting Brigadier-General of Têng-yüeh, and the Taotai, Ch'ên T'ing-chên, to institute proper measures for the relief of the suffering inhabitants; and the insurgent prisoners are to be executed after due process of trial.

Sept. 22nd.—The only memorial of any note in this day's *Gazette* is a report from the Governor of Kiangsu with reference to a vacancy in the Magistracy of Kia-ting (Kading), where, it is represented, owing to the proximity of the place to Shanghai and the frequent occurrence of international questions, it is necessary that the district Magistrate should be an officer versed in foreign affairs and a competent person. The Magistrate of Sin-yang, named Hsi Hêng-shên 許恒身, is pronounced suitable for the vacancy, and orders have been issued for his transfer to act in the post.

Sept. 23rd.—No documents of importance.

Sept. 24th.—The Governor of Anhwei memorializes with reference to Ting Show-ch'ang, late Taotai of Tientsin, who was placed in retirement by the death of his father toward the end of 1874, and whose twenty-seven months' period of mourning will expire early next year. At the request of Li Hung-chang he has been ordered by decree to proceed to the North to await employment; but he has entreated permission to fulfil to the uttermost the duty imposed upon him by the mourning rites; and this is sanctioned by rescript. (See *Gazettes* of 1875.)

Sept. 25th.—(1) A Decree. Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, applies for leave to retire from the service on the ground of increasing ill health. We ordain that his entreaty be complied with.

(2) Jui-lien, Military Governor of Jeh-ho, memorializes reporting the dispersion by force of a band of silver miners, who had congregated at a spot about 100 li north-east of Ch'êng-teh Fu, known as Yao Kow 窑溝, where veins of silver ore had been disclosed in the course of the year. A force of 60 banner-men, belonging to the foreign drilled corps, was

sent toward the end of August to drive away the lawless silver hunters, and a trader holding a government license has been authorized to prosecute the workings by way of experiment, as it is found that the *fêng-shuei* of the neighbourhood is not interfered with by mining operations at this spot.

Sept. 26th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial presented by Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, recommending the extension throughout the empire of a system of public granaries, as a provision against times of dearth. His propositions are enjoined upon all provincial Governors, for action accordingly.

(2) A Decree. Let Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan succeed to the post of Governor of Shansi. Let Li Ho-nien be transferred (from the Governor-Generalship of Min-Chêh) to the post of Director-General of the Yellow River.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, requesting that the cultivation of the poppy plant be stringently prohibited, and regulations established for the reward or punishment of officials in connection with this matter. The growth of the poppy plant is rigorously prohibited by law; but, notwithstanding this, the practice of its illegal cultivation has of late become common throughout the empire, greatly to the detriment of the food supply of the people. The district authorities are inactive in enforcing the prohibition, looking upon it as a mere matter of routine; and there are even cases in which they accept a fee for relaxing the interdict, which they turn to account for their own selfish purposes, with abuses innumerable as the result. We command hereby the Governors-General and Governors of all the provinces to issue stringent instructions to their subordinates, requiring them to use active efforts toward the enforcement of the interdict. In the event of any continuance of the disregard of orders hitherto prevailing, let the offenders be denounced for punishment. Let the proper Board, likewise, reiterate the tenor of the law as heretofore established, and circulate the same among the provinces, to the end that the lower class may have a warning set before them, and let regulations be framed with a view to the bestowal of rewards upon such officials as enforce the interdict with vigour, and punishment be meted out to those who are inactive or corrupt. Let this Edict be promulgated for the information of all.

Sept. 27th.—The themes issued for the first period of the pending Literary Examinations at Peking are published.

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the acting Governor-General of Min-chêh and the Governor of Chehkiang, who have reported the seizure and punishment of offenders guilty of organizing a pseudo-religious secret society 傳教. It appears that at a place called Shwang Kêh T'ien, in the Yung-kia district of the prefecture of Wên-chow, an individual named She Hung-ao had organized a sect based upon the observance of fasting, had fabricated charms and stamps, created titles such as generalissimo, marshal, &c., and had assembled a band of followers with treasonable designs in view. The Brigadier-General and Taotai of the division having obtained intelligence of what was going on had apprehended the man She and some of his adherents, who, after due investigation, have suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The promptitude with which this action has been taken is commended, and injunctions are laid upon the high provincial authorities to spare no efforts for the apprehension and punishment of all concerned. The proper Boards are called upon to recommend a distinguished form of reward to the Brigadier-General and Taotai; and the Prefect who exerted himself in effecting the apprehension of the prisoners is rewarded by the bestowal of honorary rank of the fourth degree on his parents and grandparents.

(2) A decree cashiering a Colonel named Shên Fu-yeo, at the instance of the high authorities at Foochow, for sundry acts of villany in North Formosa. His sentence is extended to perpetual exclusion from public employment.

Sept. 28th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Superintendents of the Imperial Mausolea, reporting certain repairs as necessary. The vice-President, P'an Tsu-yin, is named as Commissioner to proceed to the mausoleum in question and report upon the works required.

(2) Li Hung-chang presents a Memorial requesting the issue of a Decree. He would humbly recal the fact that, in the 6th moon of the 13th year of the reign T'ung Chi, (July, 1874), the British Minister residing in Peking proposed to the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with precedent, to issue passports duly sealed, under which an official mission from India might enter Yünnan by way of Burmah, and the Interpreter Margary might be sent to meet it; also to write letters

informing the provincial Governments along the line as well as to the Governor-General and Governor of Yünnan.

It was in course of time stated by the British Minister that, in the 12th moon of the same year (January 1875), the Interpreter Margary had reached Bhamo in Burma, and, having there met Colonel Browne and the rest of the party sent from India, was returning through the Yünnan country, when on the 17th of the 1st moon of the 1st year of the reign of Kuang Sü (21st February, 1875), he, the Interpreter Margary, was murdered at Man-wyne, a place which he had reached in the jurisdiction of Momein. On the 18th day (22nd February), Colonel Browne and the rest were attacked and driven back by an armed force.

In the 5th moon of the same year, Your Majesties despatched Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu Kuang, to make enquiry and take action, and the ex-Vice-President Sieh Huan was sent to act with him. The British Minister at the same time sent Grosvenor, Secretary of Legation with other [officers], whom he had selected, that they might be present at the investigation.

In the 3rd moon of the 2nd year (March 1876), Li Han-chang and his colleague, having completed their inquiry, reported to the effect that the murder of the Interpreter Margary was the act of savages, who had demanded black mail of him; that he had refused to pay it, and had been killed by them in consequence, and that it was at the instigation of Li Chên-kuo, the military officer (*tu-ssü*, major?) at Nan-tien, since cashiered, that his fellow travellers had been stopped. The case being one affecting foreign relations, they (the Commissioners,) did not think it well to take on themselves to award a sentence, and they prayed Your Majesties to instruct the Tsung-li Yamên to confer with the Board of Punishments and to report their joint opinion. Your Majesties having been pleased to signify approval of this course, a copy of the Decree, reverently made, was communicated by the Tsung-li Yamên to the British Minister, to whom were also forwarded copies of the memorial of Li Han-chang and his colleague, with copies of depositions and letters.

And whereas the depositions of Li Chên-kuo, now cashiered, and the other prisoners supplied adequate (or trustworthy) evidence against them, the proper course would have been to award such penalties as, after reference to the laws of China, the prisoners should be found severally to deserve. The British Minister, however,

has handed in a memorandum prepared by him, in which he states that, having carefully considered the report of the Secretary Grosvenor and those with him, he is of opinion that, although, by the laws of China, there might be ground sufficient for the conviction of Li Chên-kuo and the others whom Li Han-chang and his colleague have pronounced, on the depositions and other evidence before them, to be the principals in this case, [the prisoners, if the evidence] were tested by the law of England would not, in his belief, be held to have been justly convicted; that the punishment of the persons above mentioned, consequently, so far from being regarded as acceptable in England (or, by the British Government), would, on the reverse, but too probably excite [feelings of] mistrust and apprehension. The persons murdered and driven back in this case, [the British Minister observes], were British officers, and inasmuch as Western civilisation teaches that punishment of the past is not of so great consequence as the security of the future, he has earnestly requested that the parties in this case, now awaiting sentence, be not punished.

Your servant having, in obedience to your Majesties' Decree, repaired to Yen-t'ai to confer with the British Minister, would submit that, as the laws of China and the West differ from each other, and as there is a corresponding difference between their modes of proceeding, the sentences [that would otherwise have been passed,] be modified so as to meet the exigencies of the case. Chiang Tsung-han, General of the division of Têng-yueh; T'ing (Momein); and Wu-ch'i-liang, sub-prefect of that jurisdiction, have already been cashiered. They need not therefore be taken farther account of. As regards Li-chên-kuo, the *tu-ssü* cashiered, with Erh T'ung-wa, La Tu, and the others, eleven in number, if there be no impropriety in the request, [the memorialist] would respectfully pray your Gracious Majesties, as an exceptional instance of humanity beyond the prescription of the law, to deign to accord the request of the British Minister, and as an act of indulgence to consider the possibility of granting remission of their sentences. Prostrate he awaits the decision of your Sacred Majesties.

He reflects at the same time that by the murder of the Interpreter Margary, he being an officer sent on a mission by a friendly power, and provided with a passport, and by the repulse of the officers with him, a wound could not fail to have

been inflicted upon the relations of amity existing between the two countries; while with the deep interest taken by Your Majesties in foreign relations, Your Majesties cannot but have felt deeply concerned thereat. [The memorialist] proposes accordingly to request Your Majesties to issue for publication in the capital and the provinces a Decree the promulgation of which may dissipate misgiving in the public mind.

China and other nations having long since made treaties with each other, religious observance of which is equally incumbent on both sides, in the 9th moon of last year the Tsung-li Yamên presented a memorial praying a more perfect exposition of the provisions of the treaties, and a circular was written by it to the provincial governments reminding them of the provision under which foreigners travelling with passports are entitled to protection, and enjoining on them a special attention to the meaning of the treaties [in this regard], and the duty of action in conformity therewith, as differing circumstances might require. [Your Majesties replied to that memorial] and it is the writer's duty to request that a Decree may now be issued directing the Governors-General and Governors to obey with awe Your Majesties' Decree of the 11th day of the 9th moon of last year (9th October, 1875), and once more to issue strict orders to their subordinates with reverence to second the desire of the Government to keep on terms of amity with friendly states, and to remember that whenever a foreigner is travelling in the interior with a passport, they must act towards him in respect of his treaty right, as the treaty requires; that he must be duly protected; that if any serious harm befall him in consequence of their omission to take proper precaution, the authorities of the province concerned will be held responsible; that in every prefecture, sub-prefecture, and district, proclamations are to be posted, so that every household may know the relation in which the Chinese and foreigner stand to each other. [This done,] misunderstandings will be certain not to occur. Should your Majesties honor the above proposition with your approval, it will be for the Tsung-li Yamên to draught the proclamation that is to be sent to the provincial Governments for their guidance.

Whether the course suggested in this memorial for the termination of the Yünnan affair be worthy of adoption or not, the writer humbly beseeches Their Majesties the Empresses Dowager and the

Emperor, when They shall have perused it, to signify.—A Respectful Memorial.

(For Decree in reply see *Gazette* of 17th instant.)

(3) The Censor Chang Kwan-chun memorializes representing that the inveterate abuses connected with the lower grades of the administration are growing daily worse, and urging that measures of reform be instituted in the interest of good government. After dilating upon the anxiety with which the good of the people is sought to be secured by his sovereign rulers, the Censor proceeds to expose categorically the evils to which he draws attention, premising with the observation that access to official employment has been of late years too widely facilitated by the system of purchasing rank and actual employ. The following are the abuses which the Censor considers to require the most urgent attention.

(a).—The practice of calling up local officials to the provincial capital and detaining them there. It is represented that the provincial governments frequently call away district Magistrates from their posts and detain them for months at a time at the provincial capital, in order to give to expectants the benefit of an acting appointment in their place. Great hardship is thus entailed upon individuals who, whatever fault they may have committed, should not be thus dragged about.

(b).—The compulsion of officials to take over the accounts of their predecessors. Outgoing district Magistrates, when heavily in arrear in their revenue accounts, seek to shift their debtor balances upon the shoulders of their successors, and these are frequently compelled by their superiors to accept the burden as the price of their appointment. If a Magistrate subsequently hands in a report exposing the state of affairs, he incurs the secret displeasure of his superiors, who either obtain sanction for his removal to an inferior post on the official plea of "incapacity," or else, on the ground of "over-rigidity in the transaction of business," cause him to be transferred from the administrative to the educational list, even if they do not trump up some actual charge against him.

(c).—The levy of assessments on official incomes. It is shewn to be a common practice to call for subscriptions under one name or another from the local authorities; the total sum called for at any time being advanced in the first instance by the Prefect or district Magistrate at the provincial capital, and recouped by means of a general assessment. This is a fertile source of deficiency in the revenue returns.

(d).—Exactions on the part of special commissioners. It is a common practice to appoint a number of delegates (*wei yüan*) to attend to some local matter which might be settled by a single despatch, the object of the higher authorities being to give a chance of some emolument to unemployed officials, and the result is frequently extortion or vindictive misrepresentation where attempts in this direction have failed.

(e).—The enforced employment of secretaries and underlings at the recommendation of superiors. This is shewn to be a frequent cause of corruption and malpractice; as is also the profuse employment of the lower class of retainers.—Referred by rescript previously published for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

(4) Tsün K'i, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, memorializes reporting his assumption of office. After having had his audience of leave on the 17th June he left Peking, and having taken passage by steamer at Tientsin, he travelled along the coast of Shantung, Kiangsu, Chêhkiang, and Fuhkien, until, on the 13th August, he reached Canton and took over the seal of office from his predecessor Wên T'ien. He proceeds to remark upon the various responsibilities committed to his charge, noticing among other things the recent opening of K'iung-chow as a foreign trading port.

Sept. 29th.—(1) A decree, issued in consequence of the escape of two criminals from the jail of Chuen-sha T'ing, in Kiangsu. The jail-warden is cashiered and ordered to be made a prisoner for trial; and the sub-Prefect of Chuen-sha is deprived of his official button and required within a fixed limit of time to apprehend the two escaped prisoners Kao Kwoh-ts'iang and Chu Fêng-shan.

(2) The Lieutenant-General of Ch'a-har memorializes on behalf of the Imperial clansman Yih Jung, who was removed last year from the post of Military Governor of Kirin and sentenced to a term of penal servitude on the Mongolian post-road. He has come forward with a contribution of Taels 1,500 toward the expenses of the administration, and on this ground the Imperial clemency is solicited on his behalf. The remission of his sentence of penal servitude is granted by rescript.

(3) The same functionary applies for rewards on behalf of the 23 officers detailed two years ago from the Peking Field Force (*Shên Ki Ying*), to organize and instruct in European drill the body of 500 men which his predecessor obtained permission to concentrate at Kalgan as a frontier

various provincial treasuries for revenue to the amount of Tls. 19,600, beside Tls. 1,700 and odd on account of funds accruing from the sale of titles. A second case shews a deficit of Tls. 9,700; and three other individuals are reported as defaulters in lesser amounts. It is decreed, hereupon, that the officials denounced be forthwith stripped of their rank, made prisoners, and brought to trial, and that their goods and chattels be seized and confiscated in their respective native places.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, reports the proceedings taken at Peh Ma Kwan in that province, in consequence of an outbreak originated by the malefactors composing a sect of "observers of fasting." It is stated that the inhabitants of a village called Ho Kia-chwang, near Peh Ma Kwan, had been induced by a dealer in silks from Sze-ch'wan, named Sun, to form a society for this purpose, and for that of reading the sacred books (吃齋念經.) The organization was turned to account for the purpose of resisting the levy of a special impost, intended to supply the means of rebuilding a local yamên, and an outbreak was the result, which was suppressed by military force.

(3) Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi (allowed to retire from the public service on the ground of ill-health by decree dated the 26th September), memorializes representing that the cultivation of the poppy interferes with the growth of the food supplies for the people, and requesting the issue of commands for active measures directed toward the suppression of the practice, together with the institution of special means of recording the conduct of officials in this respect and the publication of a rigorous interdict, with a view to putting a stop to connivance or laxity, and to effecting a reform of the demoralization now prevailing. He begs leave to recall the saying that the supply of means of sustenance is as Heaven to the people. Since the times when the sages of remote antiquity introduced the employment of implements of agriculture and gave instruction in the arts of husbandry, the sovereigns who have succeeded each other in later ages, in their care for the interests of the people, have invariably given weighty consideration to the tillage of the soil, and have assigned a place of honour to the production of grain. Still more has it been the practice of the Imperial founders of our reigning dynasty, and their successors on the Throne, to give a foremost place to the direction of agriculture. In

the forms of worship to be undertaken in Spring and Summer for the solicitation of bountiful crops and abundant harvests, their Majesties have, without fail, performed in person the ceremonial duties prescribed, neglecting naught that should go toward securing the supply of food for the people. Inconceivable as it is that any other object should be allowed to compete with the cultivation of the crops, it is nevertheless unhappily the case that at the present day interference with the production of the people's sustenance actually takes place in the shape of the poppy plant. Rich and productive lands, instead of yielding forth the happy crops which should contribute to the nation's food supply, are widely cultivated with the deleterious plant [the product of which is] injurious to the human frame. The surreptitious growth of the poppy was introduced, it appears, so far back as in reign of Tao Kwang (1821-1850); but it is only of late years that the practice has become wide-spread. In despite of the promulgation of edicts, in successive reigns, luminously and stringently reiterating the terms of prohibition, it has been proved a difficult task to reform a practice of so long a standing. The memorialist has learned that Kiangnan, Chêhkiang, and the two Hu provinces, are the only regions in which the cultivation is comparatively slight. In all the other provinces it prevails on every side. Since he took office first as Governor of Shansi, he has been in the habit of issuing stringent injunctions to his subordinates to prohibit the cultivation; but, notwithstanding indefatigable exertions on his part for the last five years, although 80 or 90 per cent. of the illegal cultivation has been suppressed, he has still not succeeded in eradicating it utterly. The cause of this is that the profit derived from the poppy plant is greater by several times than that which accrues from the cultivation of cereal crops; and the masses, ever attracted, as they are, by the prospect of gain, take no account of the harm that is wrought thereby. On the other hand, as regards the authorities, the unprincipled among them accept fees and relax the interdict as a means of advantage to themselves; whilst others, of somewhat purer character, either hesitate to offer opposition in a matter involving profit to the people, or else consider it beyond their power to check an eager tendency which has become one of the prevailing customs of the day. As a general rule, this one particular matter is looked upon as having reached the stage of ordinary routine; and the number is but few of those who are willing to brave

unpopularly, and do not hesitate to enforce the interdict in an active manner. Hence it ensues that the practice of illegal cultivation goes on increasing month by month and year by year; and should no steps be taken now for the vigorous reform of this abuse, there is reason to apprehend that in a few decades more eighty or ninety per cent of the land will be under cultivation with the poppy, and not so much as two or three-tenths laid down with crops of grain. [After further dilating upon the impolicy of such a course, the memorialist proceeds requesting that] a Decree be promulgated, enjoining upon the governments of all the provinces the issue of instructions to the subordinate authorities for active measures in the enforcement of the interdict. They should be forbidden to consider the commands received by them an idle form, to look upon the matter in question as a trifling detail, to shew themselves in the slightest degree indulgent on the ground of pecuniary advantage to the masses, or to be supine on the plea that popular usages admit of no compulsion. He further requests that regulations be framed for recording the degree of merit assignable to district officials for exertions in the cause, and for the punishment of any such as may allow themselves to be influenced by bribes. He would ask, besides, that a prohibition be uttered by decree, stringently and for ever forbidding such among the statesmen of the empire as put forward representations of financial advantage to make proposals for a temporary relaxation of the interdict in consideration of the levy of a land tax. The views thus set forth are humbly submitted for approval. —For rescript see *Gazette* of 26th Sept.

October 5th.—(1) A Decree. In the *Gazette* of the 3rd Sept., appeared a Decree commanding the high authorities of Sze-chw'an to institute an inquiry with regard to the case of a man named Yüan T'ing-kiao, who, on being arrested in Peking as an escaped criminal from Sze-chw'an, averred that he had come to the capital for the purpose of denouncing the authorities of that province. Wên-kôh, as acting Governor-General of Sze-chw'an, reports that the man's charges are pure fabrications, and that as a matter of fact he is the rebellious subject he has been represented to be. The Decree commands that no further proceedings need be taken against the officers implicated in Yüan T'ing-kiao's charges, and that he be himself sent in custody to Sze-chw'an, there to undergo his trial for the serious offence first brought against him.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, in a supplementary Memorial, states that the Superintendent of Customs at Tientsin informs him that the remission of two-tenths duty on goods carried by rice junks from Kiangsu and Chehkiang, during the spring of the year, amounts to Taels 28,670.5.5.

(3) The Censor Têng K'ing-lin complains of the growing tendency on the part of the secretaries in the various Metropolitan offices, to monopolise the posts which should properly be filled by rotation. These men, by ingratiating themselves with their superiors, the heads of the offices, contrive to retain their places; and so it happens that posts of emolument remain in possession of intriguers and sycophants, while honest and upright men continue out of employment. When an officer is summoned to appear at Court on elevation to a higher but less remunerative office, it will happen that his superior applies for permission to retain him where he is, basing his application on public grounds, the true reason being a desire to befriend his protégé. The Censor would put the question why, if it be necessary to retain the services of certain officers on the ground that they are so competent, it never happens that the necessity is felt when an officer is sent on promotion to some lucrative post in the provinces. This makes it evident enough that it is not merely in the interests of the public service that these applications are made, and the Censor requests his Majesty to command the heads of departments to put a stop to this abuse, by ceasing to memorialise for the retention of men who should by regulation vacate their posts. The Censor excepts the Grand Council and the Yamên of Foreign Affairs from his strictures, these two departments being under other regulations. [A Decree appeared on the 23rd September in the terms suggested above.]

(4) Kw'ei-ling and Yi-mo, Superintendent and Assistant-Superintendent of Customs at the Gates of Peking, report that for the year ending 19th Sept., 1876, including one intercalary month, the full regulation amount, viz., Tls. 110,724.4.9.2 had been collected, while under the head of supplementary amount, the sum received was only Tls. 70,519.7.8, being under the sum fixed by regulation. The reasons assigned for the non-collection of the full amount are the drought in the early part of the year, the difference in the value of silver in Peking and elsewhere, and the exemption of foreign goods which have

paid duty in Tientsin from further taxation on reaching the gates.

October 6th.—(1) En-ho, Tartar Lieut.-General at Mergen, had audience before proceeding to his post.

(2) A Decree directs Yang Ch'ang-siün, Governor of Chehkiang, to despatch officers to ascertain what damage has been caused by the rains, and afford relief, in the distressed districts of Hang-chow Fu and T'ai-chow Fu.

(3) Kw'ei-ling and Yi-mo, Superintendents of Customs at the gates of Peking, report that the duty on opium collected during the year ending 19th Sept., 1876, amounted to Taels 11,299.7; and the fines and confiscations after deducting rewards, to Taels 60.1.1.

(4) Wên Yih, as Acting Governor-General of Fuhkien, requests that Lieut. Colonel Chou Shan-ch'u be handed to the proper Board for punishment under the following circumstances:—Learning that a party of gamblers in Kia-i Hien (嘉義縣), in Formosa, had successfully beaten off the soldiery when an attempt was made to break up the gang, Wên-yü called upon the *taotai* of Taiwan for a report. This official's version is that in March last Major Li Lien-chih made a raid on the gambling village, but both he and his men were wounded and beaten off. Thereupon Yang Pao-wu, Magistrate of Kia-i, and Lieut.-Colonel Chow Shan-ch'u, in command of the Kai-i battalion, were despatched in person to arrest the gamblers. An emissary was also sent off to make inquiries, and by him it was ascertained that for a certain money consideration an understanding had been come to between the gamblers and a small military official stationed in the village. The acting Governor-General states that he has made repeated attempts to put down gambling—the great vice of Taiwan; but his efforts have been neutralised by the inefficiency of Yang Pao-wu, who, however, has been denounced in another memorial for this and other grave offences. It is now requested that Lieut.-Col. Chow Shan-ch'u be handed over to the Board for failing to be aware of what was going on, and allowing the offenders to be at large after their crime was exposed.

(5) Two memorials, one each from the Governor of Chekiang, and the acting Governor-General of Min-Chêh, give an account of the discovery of a secret society on the borders of Fuhkien and Chekiang. The Memorialists begin by referring to the "Gold Coin" rebellion which disturbed the country about Hu-ning and

Wên-chow in the reign of Hien-feng, and state that this is but a reappearance of the same treasonable movement. In August last the popular mind was much agitated by rumours of coming trouble in the district of Yung-kia, in the Wen-chow Fu, and this was followed by a joint report from Fang Ting-jui, the *taotai* of the Wên-ch'u circuit, and Wu Hung-yuan, Brigadier-General at Wên-chow, in which were detailed the circumstances attending the capture of the instigators of the movement. These officers upon being informed by the gentry that certain so-called religionists were plotting mischief, caused secret inquiries to be made, and learnt that the prime mover, a man named She Hung-ao, was getting about him a number of adherents, under the guise of conducting religious services for the repose of souls. The scene of their operations was the country lying between the districts of Yung-kia and Jui-an, and to this place the Sub-Prefect, Yang Ting-hün, was despatched with a force. Under cover of the night, and favoured by a driving rain, the Sub-Prefect rushed in upon the retreat of the traitors, and succeeded in taking several prisoners, amongst them, She Hung-ao, their leader. With the rebels were seized a number of seditious books, containing incantations, magic writing, and treasonable sentiments; a wooden seal bearing the legend "Heaven's Right Way," yellow silk badges with the words "Guard the Imperial Embryo" (保護皇胎); gold coins; and foreign weapons. The prisoner, when examined, confessed that he had come to Yung-kia for the purpose of inflaming the public mind, and the *taotai* ascertained that this man, She Hung-ao, was the person otherwise known as Yeh Têh-hwa, who figured prominently among the "Gold coin" insurgents, and who had taken part in the Taiping rebellion, at which period he was on intimate terms with Li Shih-nien, one so-called prince of the Taiping movement. He subsequently joined the Roman Catholic Church, but when the French Missionary Ku Yü-kang was questioned on the subject, he stated that although the prisoner had embraced the faith, the articles found in his possession were not things used in the Church, and he requested that the law might be allowed to take its course. The prisoner was accordingly executed on the spot. The *taotai* further having elicited from the prisoner that all the members of the society were provided with a badge, issued a proclamation promising a free pardon to all who, having joined the fraternity against

their will, surrendered their badges to the authorities. One of the prisoners gave information to the effect that at Pei-kiang, in the district of P'ing-yang, there were assembled some seven or eight thousand members of the sect, and in consequence the *taotai* prefers a request that troops may be moved to the locality. He has already stationed soldiery in various parts of the city of Wen-chow to restore confidence. The high authorities, commenting on the reports of their subordinates, highly praise them for their energy and promptitude, and recommend them for rewards. They have given directions that troops shall at once proceed to be placed at the disposal of the Wên-chow authorities, and the Brigadier-General of that city has been instructed to repair to the disturbed districts in person, injunctions at the same time being laid upon him not to allow his men to commit indiscriminate slaughter in their desire to distinguish themselves. Every measure has been taken to ascertain by secret inquiries the extent of this slumbering rebellion, and orders have been sent to the proper quarters to be ready to move troops if necessary.

October 7th.—A Decree. Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, denounces an officer who, to gratify a private animosity, has brought certain charges against him. Li P'ei-king, having discovered that the Wu-kiang Division under Liu Hio-fou, Sub-Prefect of T'ai-kung, had not its full compliment of men, deprived him of his military functions, whereupon that officer, actuated by a spirit of animosity, brought certain false charges against the Governor with a view to silencing him. This is a practice which cannot be suffered to continue, and as a warning to others, We command that Liu Hio-fou be dismissed, and never again permitted to volunteer in any military capacity. Let the proper Board take note of this.

(2) Wêng Tung-tsio, Governor of Hu-peh, reports the arrest and punishment of certain individuals guilty of robbery with violence.

(3) Tsai-kang, high officer in charge of the Imperial sleeping apartments at the Western Mausolea, represents that the subordinate officials employed in the establishment for the preparation of tea, viands, and cakes for sacrificial purposes, are obliged to supply their own food, and that, as they all have families to maintain, with the late reductions of pay and inferiority of the grain now issued, they are hard put to it to make both ends meet. He proposes that an allowance be made them for maintenance, as in the case of the banner men

on duty at the Mausolea. This will involve an expenditure of Taels 343.6, which could be drawn from the contingency fund. Rescript—Let it be done as requested.

October 8th.—(1) Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, reports the delivery to his own government, to be dealt with, of a Korean who had occasioned the death of a Chinese subject. Report had been received with reference to this affair, in the first instance, from the Magistrate of the Kwang-ning District, who—the case being one of homicide in which foreign relations were concerned—had forwarded the accused person under guard to the provincial capital (Moukden.) On a trial being held, the following facts were elicited:—The Korean, Hwang Ho-li by name, was travelling, in June last, in the suite of the Korean envoy who was bound on a mission to return thanks at Peking for a manifestation of the Imperial grace, and had dropped behind the main party, with a companion, shortly after crossing the frontier at Fêng-hwang Ch'êng, in consequence of his suffering from rheumatic pains. Whilst passing through a village, the two Koreans stopped an itinerant cake-vendor and bought half a catty of the man's wares for six cash. Thinking that he had not been allowed the proper quantity of sugar with his purchase, Hwang Ho-li attempted to snatch some more, upon which the cake-vendor threatened him with his knife. The Korean, upon this, gave the cake-vendor a push which caused him to fall down, suffering in so doing an internal injury from the effect of which he died on the spot. Hwang Ho-li immediately took to flight, but he was pursued and apprehended. The facts of the case having been established on trial, it is to be observed that the death of Liu Yung-kw'an, the deceased person, was caused by his being thrown down by a push from the Korean Hwang Ho-li, without antecedent cause of quarrel, and without intention to commit murder on the prisoner's part. Were judgment to be pronounced according to the laws of China, the sentence to be delivered should be that of strangulation, deferred until after the period of revision, under the statute of homicide by brawl. Since, however, the prisoner is a Korean subject, the proper course to be pursued is to remit him to his own government to be dealt with of its own authority. He has accordingly been sent to the Board of Ceremonies at Moukden, whence directions will be issued for his transportation under guard to his own country.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

garrison. Instruction has been given to the troops as infantry and artillery, with excellent results.—Referred for the consideration of the Board of War.

(4) Wên T'ien, the outgoing Superintendent of Customs at Canton, memorializes reporting the amount of collection and disbursement on the part of the native Customs for the province of Kwangtung, for the twelve months ending 11th April, 1874, that is to say, from the 22nd April to the 2nd July, 1873, under the collectorate of his predecessor, Ts'ung Li, and for the remainder of the period, being nine months, in his own incumbency. The memorialist premises by referring to instructions issued by the Board of Revenue in 1863, directing that the accounts of the revenue collected under the foreign tariff were to be reported to the Throne in quarterly memorials, the period of commencement being the 1st October, 1860, and to be further submitted in an annual report to the Throne, drawn up at the close of each period of four quarters; returns being also forwarded quarterly to the Board of Revenue. The accounts of the native Customs' revenue were to continue to be submitted according to the financial periods of each Custom House, as has been the usage heretofore. Combining the accounts for the two periods (which are given separately in the memorial) the return is as follows:—

Revenue of Canton Custom	Tls.
House.....	103,980.7.4.0
„ „ Swatow do.	19,995.1.8.7
„ „ all outports ...	34,635.6.7.5
Total...	158,611.6.0.2

The credit side of the account stands as follows:—

Working Expenses, Meltage,	Tls.
Loss, &c.	24,229.3.1.1
Freight on remittances	4,856.5.0.9
Allowance to Board of Revenue	3,658.1.5.0
Sundry weight allowances, &c.	1,935.9.5.0
Total...	34,679.9.2.0

Deducting the above from the total amount collected, a balance remains of Tls. 123,931.6.8. To this, however, has again to be added the total constituted by the last three items in the foregoing account (which appear to be not actually charged against Government), amounting to Tls. 10,450.6.1.4, making, with a balance over of Tls. 275.4.6.5 from the "weight surplus" account, a total balance to be accounted for of Tls. 134,657.7.6. Against this, the following payments have been made:—

	Tls.
Remitted to the Board	20,000 0
Extra allowance for weight	300 0
Allowance to Board of Revenue...	580.0
Travelling expenses, officer in charge	156.6
Refund of sum advanced by Board to Tarbagatai military chest	50,000.0
Travelling expenses, officer in charge	375.0
Total...	71,411.6

The balance left in hand is Taels 63,246.1.2.

In addition to the foregoing, the amount collected at the Pakhoi Customs was Tls. 23,063.9.9.9 with an expenditure of Tls. 9,874.3.6.4. The yield of the opium-duty Stations around Hongkong and Macao amounted to Taels 319,525. (N.B. This is the first time that the returns of the Native Customs at Canton have been published in the *Gazette*).

(5) Li Hung-chang presents a postscript memorial (appended to his memorial on the Yünnan affair, for which see *Gazette* of yesterday) in the following terms: In the month of October 1875, the Yamên of Foreign affairs addressed a despatch to the British Minister, stating that with reference to the frontier trade in Yünnan, the Chinese Government will hereafter appoint an official to proceed to the spot and examine into the circumstances, and that an official should similarly be sent by the British Government to the same quarter to join in drawing up such regulations as may be best adapted to the requirements of the case. The subject was further included, also, among the eight propositions discussed at Peking in the month of June last; and it was naturally the duty of Your servant, in the articles he has now agreed to, to concede the question of the Yünnan frontier trade as heretofore dealt with in the correspondence on record, as implicit good faith requires. Inasmuch as it is now possible to formulate the conclusion of the Yünnan affair, he would entreat of the Celestial grace that orders be issued to the high provincial authorities of Yünnan, directing them, so soon as the officers sent by the British Government arrive in Yünnan, to appoint competent officials of rank to proceed to the frontier and to join in an examination of the conditions found to exist, proceeding thereupon to confer as may be necessary for the drawing up of regulations, and to memorialize the Throne at the proper time in order that action may be instituted.

This supplementary memorial is accordingly presented, and the sacred glance invoked in all humility upon it. (For rescript, see *Gazette* of 28th inst.)

Sept. 30th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Imperial Household Department, which has reported that Tsün K'i, lately appointed to the post of Superintendent of Customs at Canton, has been put into mourning by the death of a parent. Tsün K'i is commanded to return to Peking to fulfil the mourning rites, and to return to his post after the 100 days' period of retirement (according to the Manchu custom.) The Governor-General Liu Kw'ên-yih is meanwhile to take charge of the Superintendentship of Customs.

(2) The Superintendent of the Sha Hu K'ow Customs (one of the gates in the Great Wall) reports the amount of revenue collected during the period of his incumbency. The total amount collected at the close of the first year was Tls. 44,459.0.5. For a period of 9 months and 21 days, ending August 30th, the amount collected has been Tls. 34,827.0.9.

(3) The Tartar-General at Canton memorializes with reference to the fund established for the purpose of issuing grants in aid to the Manchu garrison soldiery on occasion of marriages or funerals, which, owing to the increase in the numbers of soldiers' families, is quite inadequate to the requirements upon it. A sum of Tls. 6,300 was in former times paid annually from the provincial Exchequer to the garrison chest, for distribution in this manner; but in 1855 it was ordered that the marriage gratuities should be discontinued, and a sum of Tls. 3,150 was thenceforward fixed as the allowance. The scale of issue ranges from Tls. 10 in the case of non-commissioned officers and first-class privates or artificers, to Tls. 5 in the case of supernumeraries, but the means forthcoming are quite insufficient for the purpose, and the state of impoverishment to which the garrison soldiery are reduced is represented as extreme. It is now proposed to take from the garrison chest a sum of Tls. 15,000, out of Tls. 28,000 lodged there under the head of "fodder surplus," and to add to this Tls. 5,000 from another fund accumulated for the benefit of literary candidates, and to hand the resulting total of Tls. 20,000 to the two District Magistrates to be invested at interest in the hands of pawnbrokers at 12 per cent. per annum. The income of Tls. 2,400 to be thus obtained, to be devoted to the payment of the above-named grants-in-aid.—Sanctioned by rescript.

Oct. 1st.—No documents of importance.

Oct. 2nd.—(1) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung Kiang (the Amur) memorializes with reference to the supply of gun-powder required for the use of the military force in that province. The annual amount heretofore required was 36,000 catties, which, according to regulation, should be forwarded by cart from Peking. The difficulty of transporting this supply, however, over a distance of upwards of 1,200 miles, is so great that the journey occupies fully six months, and it is only during the spring and winter months that the transport can be undertaken, owing to the risk of wet at other seasons. For present needs, therefore, it has been arranged to manufacture 18,000 catties in the province itself, as saltpetre is produced in the adjacent province of Kirin, and sulphur in that of Fêng-t'ien.

(2) The Military Governor of the Amur farther memorializes respecting the condition of the fortifications of the provincial seat of government (Tsitsihar), which are in a completely ruinous condition. The enceinte as originally constructed consists in a palisade, but during the reign of K'ang Hi (1662-1722) the soldiery were employed to enlarge the place by constructing an external rampart of earth. Each man thus set at work received a daily allowance of 6 *candareens* of silver, and the artificers employed in building the five gateways to the place received two *mace* per diem. These payments were made from the imperial exchequer. Repairs were effected on a similar basis in the year 1735, since which time decay has been allowed go on till the present state of utter ruin has been arrived at. The only labour bestowed upon the works during the period in question has consisted in some slight repairs to the gateways in 1849. The Military Governor was shocked on taking office in 1874 to find the palisades shewing gaps here and there, or bent out of line, the gates being more for shew than for use, and the earthen rampart worn down to a level with the ground. As the capital of the province from which the Imperial family derives its descent, Tsitsihar is a city of importance, and it is moreover the dépôt for the military stores of the entire province. Not only is it defenceless in any emergency, in its present unfortified condition, but, if left in its unarmed and thinly garrisoned state, although so near the border of a neighbouring Power, the wealth and strength of the empire is insufficiently represented and schemes of aggression may not be adequately checked. For this

reason it is urged that the fortification of the city be taken in hand. The Military-Governor adds that the population of the place have no confidence in the power of the authorities, at present, to protect them in case of attack by insurgents, such as the large band of mounted brigands who made an incursion in June, 1875, from the region South of the Súngari into the parts about Pa-yen Su-su 巴彥蘇蘇 and the neighbourhood of the river Hu-lan.

Oct. 3rd.—Tso Tsung-t'ang memorializes reporting a succession of signal victories achieved by the Imperial Army in the North-west, the seizure of a rebel stronghold at Ku Mu-ti 古牧地, and the recapture of Urumtsi and the adjacent city.

On the 23rd July, the memorialist reported the advance of the Imperial army to Ku-ch'êng 古城 (Guchen), their occupation of Barkul, and the measures taken for the protection of the important passes.

Liu Kin-t'ang, Taotai of the Si-ning circuit and Adjutant-General of the forces, now reports that, on the 21st July, he advanced with the cavalry and infantry under his command to Tsi-mu-sa 濟木薩; where he effected a junction with Kin Shun, Lieutenant-General of the Urumtsi command, and after having consulted together and made the necessary arrangements, they advanced westwards in company. On the 23rd July, Kin Shun occupied the town of Fu-k'ang 阜康縣, Liu Kin-t'ang taking up a position in a village to the eastward. They were thoroughly informed of the movements of the rebels; Pa Yen-hu, the rebel chief, had moved from Hung-miao-tsze 紅廟子 to Ku-mu-ti, 古牧地, where he had summoned the Mahomedans of the place to his assistance, and was prepared to give battle to the Imperial troops. The Andijani (Kashgarians) had also sent a rebel chieftain to their aid. The harvest was just being gathered, and supplies could be depended upon; there was no time therefore to be lost. The main road from Fu K'ang, passing by the Hê Kow station, 70 li distant, presents many disadvantages. The first portion is densely wooded, with marshes extending in every direction, but at Si-shu-êrh-t'ou-tsze 西樹兒頭子, a distance of 20 li, there is a canal, now fallen into disuse, by which the water

could be drained off and made available for supplying the troops. From this point to Hê Kow, above mentioned, there is a desert tract 50 li in length, totally devoid of water, with the exception of an old well, which might, after being put in repair, supply 100 men with a day's water, but not a sufficient quantity to make the spot a halting place. Above Hê-kow is a spot called Hwang-t'ien 黃田, where the ditches and canals are full to overflowing; above this lies Ku-mu-ti. At Hwang-t'ien the rebels have erected a stockade and barrier, with the object of cutting off the supply of water from the Imperial troops, and forcing them to follow the main road across the desert tract. They would thus arrive, tired and thirsty, in front of a strongly fortified town, and due advantage could be taken of their condition.

On the 8th August, Liu Kin-t'ang took up a fresh position some 10 li to the westward of the town, and set his men to cut trenches and lead the water forward. They led it thus to Si-shu-êrh-t'ou-tsze, where they constructed an entrenched camp. On the 9th he sent forward his cavalry to the disused well, with orders to clear it out, with the object of leading the enemy to believe that his intention was to proceed by the main road, and thus lead them to relax their precautions at Hwang-t'ien. On the night of the 10th Liu Kin-t'ang and Kin Shun advanced stealthily on Hwang-t'ien, coming up to the barrier at break of day. The alarm was raised, and the rebel cavalry rushed out pell-mell, while the distant sound of horns was heard in Ku-mu-ti summoning the enemy to the defence. Liu Kin-t'ang and Kin Shun, who had occupied a piece of rising ground in the vicinity, sent forward their troops from this point, some advancing from the right and others from the left. The cavalry were first engaged, and gradually drove back the enemy's horse. The infantry then rushed down, and a fierce struggle ensued, the enemy being finally routed. Those behind the stockade, seeing that the Imperial troops were not to be withstood, abandoned their impedimenta, and took to flight. They were pursued as far as Ku-mu-ti, and a large number slaughtered. The town of Ku-mu-ti (or Tsi-hwai-ch'eng 輯懷城) being strongly fortified, Liu Kin-t'ang deemed it advisable to fall back for the moment upon Hwang-t'ien. On the 12th he placed detachments on the east and north of Ku-mu-ti. On the 13th a body of the enemy's

cavalry, several thousand strong, was seen advancing from Hung-miao. Kin Shun was told to prepare for these, while Liu Chin-t'ang sent his cavalry with all speed to the foot of the hill to await their approach, their rear being covered by a detachment of infantry. Two divisions were sent to attack the southern gate of the town, and two to attack the entrenched camp in front of it, a fire being opened by the heavy artillery upon both points. Breaches were soon made, and Liu Kin-t'ang led his men to the assault. He himself attacked the entrenched camp, while his cavalry were sent to the rear of it to cut off the retreat of the rebels to Ku-mu-ti. Their success was immediate, and resulted in the capture of the position; and the troops, elated at their success, rushed gallantly forward to the assault of the town, and speedily battered down the gate, the enemy retreating to the centre of the town. Troops were sent forward immediately to hold the entrenched camp and the gate; where, although the rebel reinforcements made several furious onslaughts upon them, these attempts were checked on each occasion by the cavalry. In the meantime Kin Shun's division had done great service; they were engaged several times, and met with signal success. The entrenched camp and the gate of Tsi-hwai-ch'êng being now in his hands, while the town was completely surrounded by his troops. Liu-kin-t'ang, all his preparations being complete, opened fire upon the walls on the 15th, and made two breaches on the North and East faces. At daylight on the 16th he made two more breaches in the South-eastern angle, and an assault was then made upon these three points simultaneously. After four hours desperate fighting a lodgment was effected, and the whole of the enemy in the town, amounting to five or six thousand, were slaughtered, the few that managed to escape being killed by the troops outside the walls. A large number of Chinese captives of both sexes were rescued.

The fact of the town of Ku-mu-ti (or Tsi Hwai-ch'êng) being in his possession, and the enemy who held it exterminated, could not fail to have been made known to the rebels at Urumtsi, whose courage would be shaken at the news. Liu Kin-t'ang, therefore, determined to follow up his victory by a direct march upon that town. He commenced his advance at dawn on the 17th, destroying all the barriers and out-posts *en route*. On arriving near the town, on the eastward, the enemy were observed fleeing in every direction;

they were pursued with great slaughter, and the towns of Urumtsi, Ti-hua-chow, and the new walled town built by the self-styled Prince of the rebels, fell into the hands of the Imperialists. The enemy were pursued for over 30 li. It was reported by the spies that the rebels at Ch'ang-chi Hsien 昌吉縣 had fled in the night, but they could not discover whether Manas and Hu-t'u-pi 呼圖壁 had yet been recaptured. It is recorded, also, that in the engagements which preceded the capture of Ku Mu-ti two Andijani (Kokandi) prisoners were taken, and three prisoners each from the Kashgarian cities of Khoten and Aksu, together with four belonging to Yarkand, all of whom were "turbaned" Mussulmans. Thirty-five fine chargers were captured, beside foreign guns, petroleum (?膏油) spears, flags, and other weapons innumerable. The loss of the Imperialists on this occasion amounted to 29 officers and men killed, and 15 wounded. Summing up the results of the final success achieved in the reoccupation of Urumtsi, Tso Tsung-t'ang ascribes the rapidity with which in the course of a four month's campaign these advantages have been obtained, to the fostering care of the Celestial grace, which has supplied so distant an expedition with the needful funds and encouraged the various provincial governments to exert themselves for its support. He dwells upon the work that remains to be achieved for the subjugation of the revolvers still unconquered, and the proximity of "the Andijani" (the Khan of Kashgar) who, with a handful of exiles from their own country, have seized possession of the region of the Nan Lu. Farther reports shall be laid before the Throne on receipt of additional particulars from the commanders in the field.

Oct. 4th.—(Court Circular.) Liu Shun-hung returned thanks for his nomination as an expectant of employment in one of the lesser metropolitan offices, with the fifth degree of rank. He had audience (N. B.—This is the official lately appointed to the post of junior envoy to Great Britain.)

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor of Shantung, who has applied for proceedings in the case of a number of defaulting District Magistrates. The first on the list is reported as the lately deceased Magistrate of Ch'ang-ts'ing, whose accounts shew him in debt to

(2) Ts'ung-shih farther memorializes praying that a graduate named Liu Han-shu may be deprived of his degree for the offence of stirring up litigation. The circumstances are these:—A woman named Lin lost her first husband, and married again. The second husband, Li Ki-ch'ang, also died; and the woman not being content to remain a widow, obtained, through the agency of a middleman, a third husband named Chang. She had been with him but four days when she became dissatisfied with the poverty of his establishment, and began to make trouble. The husband, to keep things quiet, sent her back to Li Ho-yung, the brother of the second husband. With him, also, she failed to agree, and the family subscribed five hundred strings of cash, with which they sent her to her brother Lin She-ts'ing, so that he might find her another husband. The woman then proceeded to the Kai-yuan Magistracy, and charged Li Ho-yung with taking forcible possession of land belonging to her second husband, who was also his brother, and with selling the same under false pretences. Her complaint was not entertained, when at this juncture the literate Liu Han-shu appeared, and took up her cause. He accompanied her to the provincial Capital, and drew up the petition bringing these false charges against Li Ho-yung. The woman it is true was his cousin, but he was very well aware how improperly she had behaved in thus taking one husband after another. In trumping up false accusations on her behalf, he has shown a great want of self-respect, and it is requested that his degree be taken away. The woman has been sent back to her brother, and Li Ho-yung has been set at liberty, there being nothing to charge against him.—Rescript approving the proceedings.

(3) The same high official begs that two banner-men who have been guilty of insubordination and threatening their superior officers may be dismissed the service, and expelled from the banner, and sent to hard labour on the Amur. This spirit of insubordination, states the Governor-General, is on the increase, and must be put down with a high hand.—Rescript assenting to the request.

October 9th.—(1) Wang Wên-shao, Governor of Hu-nan, reports the rehearing and settlement of the following appeal case. Hu Ch'ang-t'ang, an ex-official of the 9th grade and a native of the Tung-An district, is the plaintiff, and Sieh Lan-tsieh, his wife's uncle, the defendant. Sieh Lan-tsieh, who had been promoted

for services as a volunteer, was placed in charge of four divisions of reinforcements and sent from Hu-nan to Kwei-chow, Hu Ch'ang-t'ang accompanying him as secretary and commissariat officer. The two were on the best of terms; Hu Ch'ang-t'ang was continually borrowing money from his chief, obtaining, from first to last, over Taels 1,600. Most of the men being natives of his own district, Sieh Lan-tsieh arranged with those of them who were entitled to pension, gratuity, or bonus, on being disbanded, that they should go to their homes and there receive what was due to them, instead of waiting on for the arrival of the supply of money that was already in arrear. In course of time, the pacification of Kwei-chow being accomplished, Sieh Lan-tsieh obtained leave of absence to return home and settle these payments, leaving Hu Ch'ang-t'ang in charge. The long expected supplies having eventually arrived, at Sieh Lan-tsieh's desire, the sum due to those in his native district was sent to him for distribution. At the close of the year 1872, the four divisions were disbanded, and Hu Ch'ang-t'ang also returned to his native place. Soon after his return, Sieh Lan-tsieh's sons, hearing that he owed their father money, pressed him for repayment, their demand being subsequently repeated by the father, who turned a deaf ear to Hu Ch'ang-t'ang's entreaties to be allowed a little time. Angry discussions ensued, and a charge of fraud was eventually brought against Hu Ch'ang-t'ang, who was deprived of his button and feather, dismissed from his post, and ordered to repay the money. This he was unable to do, and being hard put to it, he charged Sieh Lan-tsieh with embezzlement of public monies. The charge was brought, through the proper channel, to the Governor, who referred the case to the magistrate. Hu Ch'ang-t'ang subsequently determined to carry the case to Peking, hiring one Chou Shou-hing to be the bearer of his petition. The suit having been referred to the Governor, he ordered a fresh trial, at which Hu Ch'ang-t'ang admitted that his charges were utterly false, and that he had only made them because of the importunity of Sieh Lan-tsieh, who he had hoped might be put to death, and he would thus be rid of him. It is laid down in the Statutes that a person bringing a false charge against another which, if proven, would be punishable by death, shall, if the accusation fail, receive a hundred blows with the heavy bamboo, and be banished for three years to a distance

of 1,000 li. Hu Ch'ang-t'ang in being convicted on his own confession, is entitled to a mitigation of this penalty in one degree. Inasmuch, however, as the offence was committed prior to the Act of Grace of 1875, and comes within the category of crimes to which its provisions extend, he should be pardoned and set at liberty. Sieh Lan-tsieh, being innocent of the charges brought against him, should, of course, be liberated. — Referred to the Board of Punishments.

(2) A supplementary Memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Kwang-si. The Governor-General of Yünnan and Kwei-chow had written to say that the Commanders of the battalion in the neighbourhood of Momein having represented that the people of that locality being in revolt, the force at their disposal was most inadequate; he had, therefore, to request that the Ti-tsze Battalion, under Colonel Wên Ming-ti, an officer of repute, might be sent as a reinforcement to Yünnan, the expenses of their subsistence while on the march being provided by the province of Kwang-si. The memorialist remarks that the protection of the Annam frontier, and the work of reorganisation at T'ien Chou 田州 and other places, demand strict attention, while the rebels on the Kwei-chow border, not being entirely exterminated, the most careful watch has to be kept, and measures of precaution cannot be relaxed. The force at his disposal, therefore, is not too large; but the military operations in Yünnan being of still greater importance, he has detached this battalion as requested, and will provide Tls. 5,000 for their expenses on the march.

Oct. 10th.—(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the result of a hearing on appeal referred back from Peking. Kwoh Tsün, a licentiate of the department of Ts'ze Chow, had complained against the police as having endeavoured to extort money and to falsify evidence in the case relating to the murder of his father Kwoh Sze-mei. The facts elicited on trial were as follows. Kwoh Sze-mei, a farmer of Ts'ze Chow, had in his employ a man named Li Che-ho, with whom he lived on terms of equality. In the early part of 1875 he engaged a second labourer named Wang Hi-ch'êng, who lived for a time on friendly terms with the man Li; but disputes arose later in consequence of Li's idleness, and this person was at length dismissed by his employer. Believing himself to have been deprived of his situation by means of

representations on the part of Wang Hi-ch'êng, Li determined to revenge himself by murdering the latter as he slept; and, being quite familiar with Kwoh's place of abode, he made his way one night to the outhouse in which Wang was accustomed to have his bed. Guided by the sound of heavy breathing, he dealt a stab at the sleeper; but this, as it happened, was not Wang Hi-ch'êng. Wang being absent on the evening in question, his employer had gone to fodder the cattle, and had lain down to sleep on Wang's bed. On being wounded as above-mentioned, Kwoh rose to his feet and pursued the assassin into the street, where he caught him by the clothes, but his strength failed him and Li tore himself away. The wounded man was carried home by his son, and shortly afterwards died. Li was apprehended and brought to trial, and was sentenced to suffer death for the act of murder, though committed with intent to kill, not the actual victim, but another person. The son, Kwoh Tsün, has confessed himself to have been misled by his grief for the loss of his parent, into accusing the police of endeavouring to falsify the charge into one of unintentional homicide; and he has been let off, under the circumstances, with the penalty of 50 stripes with privilege of commutation.

(2) The Governor of Honan memorializes denouncing a number of District Magistrates for defalcation in the amounts of revenue due from them.

Oct. 11th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, who has denounced the late acting magistrate of Ning-tsin as a defaulter in the amount of Tls. 7,700, being revenue collected by him and not accounted for. He has absconded; and as he is a native of Shantung it is thought likely that he may have made his way to his own home. The provincial authorities are enjoined to use active endeavours for his arrest.

(2) The Governor of Shantung memorializes denouncing a number of District Magistrates for defalcation in various sums. — Rescript enjoining the arrest and confiscation of the goods of the offenders already issued.

Oct. 12th.—No documents of importance.

Oct. 13th. — (1) Fêng-shên, Military Governor of the Amur, requests that certain ex-officials banished to the Amur may be set at liberty in consideration of services rendered by them during their exile. These ex-officials, three in number,

have displayed great energy and bravery in operations against local banditti. They have thus performed a certain amount of meritorious service, while their conduct has been free from all blame. The crimes they are expiating were all committed before the Act of Grace of 1875. —Referred to the proper Board.

(2) A Memorial by the same officer giving additional reasons for the remission of the sentence of banishment passed upon certain officers. He had suggested their release in an earlier Memorial, but the Board had objected on the ground that their so-called services amounted to no more than the performance of the ordinary official duties assigned to them. —Referred again to the proper Board.

(3) The Court of Censorate forwards an appeal presented by one Wan Süan-chung, a native of Tsing-ning Chow in the province of Kan-suh, whose complaint is as follows:—A clansman having purchased land of appellant's father, the whole of the purchase money for which had not been paid, the latter pressed for the balance. This gave rise to a feud between the two, which resulted in the kinsman attacking the house one night and murdering the appellant's father. The appellant himself, who had escaped by clambering over the wall, fled from the place, and it was not until his return, after an absence of seven years, that he learnt that his father, uncle, brother, and two other members of the household, had been murdered. Failing to obtain redress in his own province, he had brought his petition to the capital.

(4) Fêng-shên, Military Governor of the province of the Amur, and T'oh-k'o-tuan, Lieutenant-General of Tsi-tsi-har, in a joint memorial forward a list of officers whom they recommend for honorary rewards on account of distinguished services at the recapture of How-lan Ting in June, 1875. The town had been invaded by a band of mounted robbers, who burnt the barracks and public offices, took possession of the market place, and abducted a number of the inhabitants. The list also includes the names of officers who displayed gallantry during an expedition among the hills at Pa-yên-shu-shu, nominally for hunting purposes, but actually in pursuit of fugitive banditti, many of whom were killed, and over thirty of whose lairs were destroyed.

Oct. 14th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the acting Governor-General of Min-chên and Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, with reference to embezzlements that had been practised by certain officials employed in purchasing

munitions of war. It is found that the expectant Department Magistrate Shên Ch'un 沈純 and the expectant Sub-

Prefect Wên Shao yung 文紹榮 have been guilty of falsifying the accounts of purchases made by them to the extent, in the one case, of Taels 21,000, and in the other to that of Taels 28,000, over and above the proper sum. For conduct so illegal and corrupt, a rigorous punishment must needs be awarded. It is decreed, in conformity with the sentence proposed, that Shên Ch'un and Wên Shao-yung do suffer death by decapitation, after imprisonment to await the period of revision. Proceedings are farther to be taken to enforce restitution of the sums embezzled, report being made to the Throne, at the expiry of the period allowed for recovery of the money, declaring whether repayment in full has been effected. As regards the Sub-Prefect Chow Sing-i 周星詒,

who alleges in his statement that he was not in any wise implicated in the embezzlements perpetrated, it was nevertheless due to his failure to apply a proper scrutiny in the arrangements for the purchase of certain vessels that so great a loss as one hundred thousand dollars was entailed. Confirmation is awarded to the sentence propounded in his case, viz., that he be required to make good the amount in full, and be transported to penal servitude on the Mongolian post-roads, there to redeem by his exertions the offence he has committed. For their failure to discover that these frauds were being perpetrated, We command that the following officials be handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty, viz., Li Ho-nien, ex-Governor-General of Min Chên; Pao-hêng, Financial Commissioner, and President of the Military Board in Fuhkien; Lu Shih-zieh, Salt Commissioner; Yeh Yung-yuan, Grain Commissioner; Wên-ki, ex-Salt Commissioner; and Ow T'ien-min, ex-Grain Commissioner. As the offences in question did not occur during Ting Yih-chang's term of office, no punishment need be visited upon him, his request to the contrary notwithstanding.

(2) The Governor-General of Chihli reports the steps taken to keep within proper bounds the waters of the river Yung-ting (the Hw'ên Ho), and recommends for favorable consideration the services of Li Ch'ao-i, the official in charge of the dykes and embankments.

(3) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shan-tung, details the measures taken to alleviate the distress caused by the drought

in his province in the early part of the year. Throughout the distressed districts the gentry were encouraged to sell grain at a reduced price, open soup kitchens, contribute rice, and subscribe money. Officers were sent to all parts of the province to give relief where most needed, and for this purpose the *taotai* of the Teng Lai-Ts'ing Circuit (the Superintendent of Customs at Chefoo) was called upon to remit Tls. 30,000 from the native Customs. Agents were sent to Manchuria to buy grain, which was landed at the port of Li-tsin (the mouth of the Yellow River), and thence transported to the starving districts. The opportunity was taken to repair the salt works in the district of Li-tsin, and deepen the port of Wei Hien. In this way it was found possible to consult the interests of the State, while at the same time relieving the famine stricken population. The people were further urged to dig wells, and thus to some extent prevent the seed from perishing in the ground. When the rain did come, it was too late to sow anything but buckwheat, and a quantity of this grain was procured from Chihli to be distributed to the people to be used as seed. Altogether over Tls. 80,000 of public money was disbursed in giving relief, and the greatest care was taken that only the deserving should receive assistance, the distribution of charity having been under the personal supervision of the officers appointed to the duty.

Oct. 15th.—(1) A Decree. We have received memorials from the Censor Hu Yü-kün, representing that pseudo-religious societies (邪教) are working evil to the country, and praying that the Provincial Governments may be instructed to seize and punish persons propagating their doctrines. He suggests at the same time that a strict surveillance should be maintained at the capital, and that the authorities generally should be on the watch to deal with evil disposed persons who involve the reputation of religious (i.e., foreign missionary) establishments. Shên Pao-cheng and others have earlier reported that [societies based upon] unlawful doctrines were rife in Kiang-su and other provinces, accompanied by practices such as those of "paper men," "cutting of queues," and the like. We have repeatedly instructed the Governors-General and Governors concerned to give orders for the arrest and punishment of this class of evildoers, who are extending their operations to many provinces and thereby

causing no small degree of mischief. We hereby order them to cause proclamations to be issued calling on the people to pursue their several avocations in a quiet and orderly manner, and to pay no heed to delusive tales; bringing the members of pseudo-religious sects, whenever such are met with, before the authorities, who will punish them with the utmost rigour of the law. The ways of evildoers such as these are wily and deep-laid, and they frequently profess connection with a [foreign] religious establishment by way of pretext for their evil doings. The authorities will nevertheless punish them as the law requires, and not suffer themselves to be imposed upon by their devices. In the capital, as a centre of resort from all parts of the Empire, if a careful watch be not maintained, bad characters may not impossibly find a chance to congregate. Let the Office of Gendarmerie, the Governor of Shun-t'ien, and the Metropolitan Censorates draw up regulations that shall ensure a strict and efficient watch being kept; that so bad characters may be kept down, and peace and order be preserved.

(2) A Decree sanctioning the opening of two of the charitable relief agencies in the capital before the usual time, in consequence of the high price of corn resulting from bad harvests. A relief agency is also to be established at Lu-kou-k'iao 蘆溝橋 (a town and bridge on the main road to the west, about 10 miles distant from Peking.)

(3) Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, and Governor of Yunnan, reports the re-hearing of an appeal case, in which the appellant, Sū Sze-hiang, complained that he was unable to return to his home in consequence of his elder brother, who maintained a separate establishment, having been concerned in a rising in the province of Kwei-chow. His brother's band had been attacked and put to flight, and his property confiscated. Sū Sze-hiang, who was in no way concerned in his brother's misdoings, being afraid to return to his home, or to represent his case in his own province, went to the capital, and there wilfully misrepresented the facts, basing his statements on mere hearsay. He will be allowed to take possession of his own property, and the penalty which he incurred by his misrepresentations will, under the Act of Grace, be remitted.

(4) The same officer denounces certain sub-prefects and magistrates for deficiencies in taxes for which they have to

account, and requests that their buttons may be taken away from them, and a limit fixed within which the deficiencies are to be made good.

Oct. 16th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is taken up with the report of the Governor-General of Sze-chw'an with reference to the proceedings of the Military in the district of Tung-hiang, the memorial being a vindication against the charges brought against the Sze-chw'an authorities by the ringleader of the rioters against whom the troops were moved. (See *Gazettes* of Sept. 3rd, 14th, *et. al.*)

Oct. 17th.—(1) Tsao-pao, President of the Mongolian Superintendency, is fined six months' pay for neglecting to be present at Court at the proper time.

(2) A Decree directing Siu-ki, Lieutenant-General of Altchuka, in Kirin, to proceed to his post without delay.

(3) Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chêh-kiang, reports the arrival of a distressed Liu-chuan junk at Cha-pu. The vessel having been seen off Cha-pu in a helpless condition, was brought into port by a Government cruiser. She was 67 feet long with a beam of 23 feet, and carried a cargo of salt, coarse tea, and lime. There were twenty-five men on board, all of whom wore their hair twisted into a knot at the top of the head. None of them could speak Chinese, but one of their number had a slight knowledge of the written character and could write a few words roughly with the pencil. From him it was ascertained that the master of the vessel was named Lin-k'o-wang, and that the crew were twenty-four in number, all of them being natives of Liu-chiu. They were bound for Pa-chung-shan, in Liu-chiu, with a cargo of salt, tea, and rice. They set sail on the 11th July last (from what port the memorialist does not state), and shortly afterwards encountered a gale, which drove them out of their course. The vessel was found to be in sound condition, but she had lost her mainsail, her stern gallery, and her iron anchor, whilst her running gear was also somewhat damaged. The crew were supplied with provisions, and the vessel was repaired with all despatch. On the repairs having been completed, the crew were supplied with a stock of provisions, and the junk was convoyed to Foochow.

Oct. 18th.—(1) Liu Kw'en-yi, Governor-General of the two Kwang, recommends that Wen-t'ien, ex-Superintendent of Customs at Canton, be rewarded with an appointment to the presidency of a department in the Inner Household, for his

able administration of the Canton Customs during his tenure of office.—An Imperial Rescript grants the request.

(2) Wen-t'ien, ex-Superintendent of Customs at Canton, reports having handed over to his successor the following duties collected between the 1st Oct., 1875, and the 12th Augt., 1876 :—

Taels.

Collected by Foreign Customs

at Canton 724,220 5.3.2

Opium duty 14,453.8.4.5

Half duty on produce 36,146.4.2.5

Duties collected from

C. M. S. N. Co. 27,754.7.5.2

Half duty do., do. 5,668.4.2.5

Collected by Swatow Customs

..... 337,663 6.9.2

Opium duty 284,004.7.5.0

Half duty on produce 40,989.7.8.6

C. M. S. N. Company..... 15,307.6.5.8

Opium carried by do. 11,150

Half duty on produce 1,852.2.1.1

and also the following amounts received at the Native Custom House, between the 21st March, 1876, and the 12th August, 1876 :—

Taels.

Duties collected at Canton... 47,503.1.4.4

„ „ „ Outports 12,035.3.4.3

„ „ „ Swatow... 8,751.3.6.1

Opium stations

near Hongkong

and Macao.....119,355.3.0.0

Deduct expenses 88,269.8.4.3

—————31,085.4.5.7

Tak-hoi Customs 10,096.3.9.5

Deduct expenses...4,042.0 7.5

—————6,054.3.2.0

(3) The Governor-General of the two Kwang provinces memorializes with reference to the treatment to which kidnappers of persons for shipment to places beyond sea should be subjected, giving it as his opinion that criminals of this class should continue to undergo the regular processes of trial, and that it is not necessary that summary execution should be resorted to in their case. He refers to a despatch received by him on the 22nd May last, from the Board of Punishments, in which a memorial from the late Governor-General Ying Han, urging the introduction of a rigorous enactment for the punishment of kidnappers, was considered. The Board had memorialised, observing that with reference to the practice prevailing for the sake of gain among lawless natives of the province of Kwangtung, of kidnapping individuals by force or fraud to be sent across the sea, the late Governor-General had represented to the Throne that, in view of

the system of engagement of [contract] labourers which foreigners 遠人 are now about to put into operation, there is reason to fear for the result of combinations formed with them by Chinese subjects; and he requested accordingly that [offenders] might continue to be punished by summary process under the new regulations. The propositions contained in this memorial having been referred by decree to be reported upon by the present Governor-General, he observes that an enactment was placed upon the statute book in 1866, at the instance of the authorities then holding office at Canton, providing for the summary decapitation of kidnappers found guilty of inveigling unwilling persons into the service of foreigners to be sent beyond the sea. At a subsequent date, in view of the fact that Chinese subjects left port of their own accord, but were enticed by dishonest persons into going abroad, it was held that to deal with all such persons on the footing of actual kidnappers would be too severe a procedure; and the former Governor-General, Jui-lin, memorialised in conjunction with the Governor of Kwangtung, Chang Chao-tung, submitting a proposal, which was referred for deliberation to the Board, in accordance with which the principal, in cases of this nature, should be sentenced to the penalty of strangulation, after due period of revision; and accessories to that of one hundred blows and transportation to a distance of 3,000 *li*, in conformity with the law against the conducting of subjects of the Empire beyond its frontiers. When reporting, in December, 1874, upon the proposals for due precaution in the administration of justice set forth in the memorial presented by the Censor Têng K'ing-lin, the Governor of Kwangtung represented that, owing to the cessation of operations for the engagement of contract labourers to go abroad, the crime of kidnapping had gradually died away, and he requested that charges of inveigling persons to leave port or to emigrate beyond the sea might be dealt with by regular process of trial, as in the case of ordinary offences, summary execution being dispensed with. He farther stated that he had instituted a code of regulations, and had stationed civil and military officials at Canton and Whampoa to keep a strict look-out against kidnappers. In the representations of the Governor-General, Ying Han, referred to in the present despatch from the Board, it is observed that as the engagement of labourers is now [about to be] undertaken on the part of Peru, dishonest persons

are sure to recommence their accustomed practices, and find means to enter into combinations with unlawful intent. He therefore requested that summary execution might once more be resorted to. The present memorialist, after recapitulating the tenour of the late enactments, observes that although a Treaty has been concluded with Peru on the subject of the engagement of labourers in China, no emigration operations have as yet been set on foot in Kwangtung, and there is no reason to apprehend that pretexts will be found for acts of fraud on the part of dishonest Chinese subjects. He therefore opines that summary execution after preliminary investigation only is a process that need not be reintroduced; and he requests that orders be issued sanctioning the regular form of trial in the case of persons charged with kidnapping. Rescript, desiring the Board of Punishments to consider and report.

(4) Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Sze-chw'an, states that the presence of Brigadier-General Yang Fu-tung being no longer required in the district of Tung-hiang (the scene of late disturbances), he has been directed to proceed without delay to his new post at K'ai-hwa Fu (開化府), in Yünnan.

(5) Wen-t'ien, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, reports having handed over charge to his successor on the 13th Aug. last. He made up his accounts to the previous day, showing the duties received under the following heads:—Canton Foreign Customs, Native Customs, opium, half duty on native produce, China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, Swatow, opium tax stations, and Pak-hoi.

(6) The same official reports having placed in the hands of his successor the accounts of the K'ung-chow Custom House. During the three months ending 30th June last, the sum of Tls. 3,206.1.2.5 was collected on account of duties, tonnage dues, and opium duty; while during the first month of the succeeding quarter the collection under the same heads amounted to the sum of Tls. 7,736.6.9.6.

Oct. 19th.—(1) The acting Governor-General of Min Chêh applies for permission to imprison, and, if necessary, to inflict corporal punishment upon, Yang Tsai-yuan, a military officer who was some years ago degraded and dismissed for embezzling the pay of his men. Every attempt has been made to make him acknowledge his crime, and refund the money, but he persists in maintaining that Tls. 1,900, already repaid, is all the public

money he can be called to account for. It is now proposed to imprison him and compel him to make good his defalcations.

(2) The same high official states that, for the vacant post of Prefect of Foochow he has selected Chang Meung-yüan (張夢元), at present holding the office of prefect of T'ai-wan Fu.

(3) The Governor-General of Min-Chên farther reports having sent back to their own country twelve Liuchiuans who had been driven by stress of weather to the Chinese coast. They were duly cared for while in Foochow, and sent back with a month's provisions in their own craft, which was found staunch enough for the voyage.

(4) The High Authorities of Fuhkien bring a series of charges against Yang Pao-wu, Magistrate of the Kia-i District, in Formosa, and beg that he may be stripped of his rank and brought to trial. The offences imputed to him are, first, that last year when one of his police was killed while attempting to extort money in a village where he had gone to serve a summons, the Magistrate proceeded with a force to the village in question, and arrested a number of innocent persons, from whom he extorted money before granting them their release. Again, when a military officer was severely wounded and beaten back by a party of gamblers, the Magistrate, who proceeded twice to the spot with a force at his back, failed to arrest the principal offenders. Another charge is that he permitted a friend to introduce loose women into his yamên, and make the place a scene of drunkenness and dissipation. — The Rescript grants the request of the memorialists.

Oct. 20th.—A decree, based upon a report from the Board of Punishments, handing up for perusal the statement deposed on trial by Yüan T'ing-kiao, the malefactor from the province of Szech'wan (see *Gazette* of 16th inst. and 3rd Sept.), and also upon a joint representation from the Secretary Siao Tsung-yü and others, forwarded through the Court of Censorate, in which an officer in command of troops is accused of wanton slaughter and of acts of violation and abduction. The Censor Li T'ing-siao has also memorialised, stating that in the reply returned from Szech'wan relating to this very serious affair, a very great number of passages open to doubt and question are to be found, and he requests that a stringent enquiry be ordered. In this matter of the outbreak headed by the lawless offender Yüan T'ing-kiao in Szech'wan, apart from the allegation

he makes in his deposition that he did not attack the quarters of the military and offer resistance to the armed forces of Government—a statement upon which reliance is not easily to be placed,—it is, at the same time declared in the petition presented by the notables, incriminating [the General] Li Yeo-hêng, that he summarily beheaded certain of the villagers who went to his encampment with a petition, and that the persons who thus suffered were law-abiding individuals, in no wise partaking of a criminal character. In the proclamation, moreover, issued under his seal of office by Li Yeo-hêng, there occurs the statement that “prisoners without number have been captured in the taking of the Tsien-fêng and other fortified villages, and put to death.” This statement is diametrically opposed to the assertion contained in the Memorial (from Szech'wan) to the effect that “no prisoners from the villages have been taken or executed.” In view of the serious ground that is given for suspicion in this matter, the newly appointed Governor-General of Szech'wan, Li Han-chang, as a person who cannot possibly have reason to screen the parties concerned, is commanded to institute a searching enquiry into all the particulars. The prisoner Yüan T'ing-kiao is to be sent back under guard to the province, to give evidence.

(2) The Governor-General of Yünnan &c., memorializes with reference to the appointment of a successor to the post of Intendant to the Southern Circuit, with residence at P'u-Urh Fu, a post of signal importance, owing to its relations with Burmah, Siam, and the States of the Laos, beside being remarkable for its unhealthiness. It is proposed to appoint to this post the expectant Taotai Ch'ên T'ing-chên 陳廷珍, aged 49, a native of Peh-liu in Kwangsi, who has gained much distinction in Yünnan by his services against the rebels and in the suppression of various local outbreaks. He was for some time Acting Prefect of K'ai-hwa Fu.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

Oct. 21st.—(1) A decree, referring to the recent opening of the Government relief agencies, in and near Peking, in advance of the usual period, and directing a report to be made by the proper authorities as to the points at which additional stations may most advantageously be placed, in view of the rise in the price of the necessaries of life which has been entailed by the drought of the season.

(2) A Memorial from the Governor of Anhwei reporting the proceedings on

rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking. The complaint lodged by a widow named Li Tu-she, respecting the murder of her husband, has been disproved.

(3) The Governor-General of the two Kiang and the Governor of Anhwei jointly memorialise with reference to the transfer of a Sub-Prefect, whom it is thought desirable to station henceforward at the large trading town which has grown up on the island of Ho Yüeh Chow 和悅洲,

opposite to Ta-t'ung 大通, on the Yangtze. The town of Ta-t'ung itself, formerly an important business centre, was utterly destroyed during the rebellion, and the new town that has been formed in its place had its beginning in the encampment of troops upon the island during the military operations of that period. The island was originally a mere reed bed, and was at one time known by the name of Ho Yeh Chow 荷葉洲.

The population which has grown up there is of a very mixed character, and contains a large proportion of professional desperadoes, disbanded braves, members of secret societies, and the like. The petty civilian functionary and sergeant of police now stationed at Ta-t'ung, are unable to exert the requisite authority over the place; and it is therefore proposed to transfer to the spot the Sub-Prefect of T'ai-p'ing Fu, who has heretofore been stationed at Wu-hu, this last-named town being adequately provided with superior officials. The pay and allowances heretofore issued to the Sub-Prefect, in his original post, were as follows:—Official salary, Tls. 80; servants' wages, Tls. 12; official runners' wages, Tls. 48; constables' wages, Tls. 72; chair-bearers' and umbrella-bearers' wages, Tls. 42,—amounting in all to Tls. 254 per annum, payable from the district treasury of Wu-hu, besides a personal ("anti-extortion") allowance of Tls. 500 issued from the provincial exchequer. It is proposed to continue these payments on the same scale in the new appointment.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the proper Boards.

Oct. 22nd.—(1) A decree conferring the post of Secretary of a Board (主事) on Wu K'o-tu 吳可讀. (N.B.—This official was removed from the Censorate in 1874 for indiscreet language in connection with the trial of Ch'eng-lu, then Commander-in-chief at Urumtsi, for the unprovoked slaughter of a whole village.)

(2) Wêng T'ung-tsio, acting Governor-General of Hu-kwang, requests that Yang Tsung-lien, whose year of office is up, may

be allowed to remain in charge of the new Customs' station (at Kingchow Fu on the Yangtze), where duty is collected on bamboos and timber. During the expired year, the amount collected on this kind of building material was Tls. 39,985.

(3) Wêng T'ung-tsio begs permission to put off until next year the inspection of all military stations in Hupeh, which he had been directed by the Board of War to make. Owing to the Civil and Military examinations being held this year, his whole time will be occupied, and he would find it quite impossible to absent himself for the two months required for the tour of inspection.—The Rescript grants his request.

(4) The Lieutenant-General at Ch'a-har reports that the Imperial Clansman Yih Jung has paid in the Tls. 1,500 which he had offered as a contribution towards the expenses of the Mongolian post-road, and in consideration of which he had been granted his liberty by rescript already published.

Oct. 23rd.—(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the trial and execution by the lingering process (*ling-ch'e*) of an insane person who murdered his own father as the latter was attempting to gain entrance to his house one night, after having been to a neighbouring village in quest of a doctor. The insane son hearing the dogs bark imagined that thieves were about, and arming himself with a stick sallied out. Before the family could take him off, he had so seriously wounded his own father that the latter died next day.

(2) Li Hung-chang submits an account presented to him by Liu Ping-lin, Taotai of Tientsin, whereby it appears that the sum of Tls. 7,868 has been disbursed on account of the grain junks from the provinces of Kiangsu and Chehkiang. The items of the account are pilotage, police, clerks, foreign tide-waiters, stationery, oil, and candles.

(3) The same high official states that it is proposed to send back to Süan-hwa Fu three hundred out of the thousand men now stationed at Urga; two hundred infantry and five hundred cavalry being retained as a garrison. The officer in charge of this force, Lieutenant-Colonel Sü P'ing-chw'en has been at his present post for the last six years, and is entitled to be relieved. Chih-kang, Resident at Kurun (Urga), recommends in his stead Lieut.-Colonel Tan Hing-kw'ei, an officer well up to his work, and thoroughly well versed in matters beyond the frontier.

Oct. 24th.—(1) Liu-tien, assistant Military Administrator for Shên-si and Kan-suh, reports that he has caused another wooden seal to be engraved in consequence of his promotion to the rank of President of the Imperial Stud Court

太僕寺, with a button of the second grade.

(2) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, reports the rehearing and decision of the following appeal case:—Sun-hêng, Liu Ch'un-ki, and Tuh Hwa-ts'ün, three of the parties in the case, are natives of Tang-shan Hien, Liu Ch'un-tsi's sister was married to Tu Hwa-ts'ün. Sun-hêng was an intimate friend of the latter, and lived close by. In April, 1873, Sun-hêng, while out walking, met a kinsman of Tuh Hwa-ts'ün's, by name Tuh-hiang, and stopped to chat with him. In the course of conversation Sun-hêng jestingly remarked that he had seen Tuh Hwa-ts'ün's wife; that she was a fine looking woman, and, he had heard, most accommodating. If, therefore, she happened to be led astray, her husband, who was an easy going man, would not be likely to hear of it. Tuh-hiang rebuked his friend for making such improper remarks, and strong language passed between the two, in consequence of which they dropped each other's acquaintance. One night in the month of June, 1873, Tuh Hwa-ts'ün went out to watch his crops, closing the outer door of his house by propping a piece of stick against it. Sun-hêng, hearing that he had gone out, determined to seize the opportunity to pay a visit to Tuh Hwa-ts'ün's wife. He went to the front door, gave it a push, and, finding it open, made his way to the wife's bedroom, which had no door. She and her family were all sound asleep, taking advantage of which fact he crept to her bedside guided by the light of the moon, and gently touched her to awake her. She jumped up with a start, and indignantly repelled his advances, wrapping the coverlet around her, and kicking him while she screamed for assistance. Sun-hêng, in alarm lest her cries would be heard, and he should consequently be recognised, drew out a small double-edged knife he had upon him and killed her, after which he climbed over the wall and made his escape. The other inmates of the house, aroused by the sobs and cries of a little child who occupied the bed with the murdered woman, summoned the husband, and he after making certain enquiries, charged Sun-hêng with the crime. Sun-hêng admitted his guilt, but determined to

revenge himself upon Tuh-hiang, declared that the latter was his accomplice. After careful examination, under which Tuh-hiang succumbed, it was found that the charge of complicity was utterly untrue. The husband, however, for whose grief at his wife's death due allowance should be made, was not satisfied, and, under the impression that the evidence had been tampered with, persuaded Liu Ch'un-tsi to go to Peking and appeal on his behalf at the Court of Censorate. Sun-hêng has been sentenced to immediate decapitation. The memorialist suggests that a posthumous testimonial of merit be conferred by His Majesty upon the unfortunate woman.

(3) Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêngking, prays that the penalty of banishment to the Amur may be visited on an Imperial clansman who has been found guilty of putting into circulation forged notes. All the implements used by him were seized, and he confessed to having obtained large sums of money in this manner, pleading poverty as his excuse.—Rescript confirming the sentence.

October 25th.—(1) A Decree. Let a posthumous title be conferred on Shên Chao-yün, formerly Financial Commissioner of Chênkiang, whose death is reported by Li Hung-chang. The deceased officer did good service during the inroad of the Taiping rebels into Honan, and to his valour was due the preservation of the provincial capital. In 1870 he saw the recurrence of the cyclical year in which he took his degree, (i.e., the sixtieth anniversary of that event), and was thus able to be present at the banquet given by His Majesty to successful candidates.

(2) A Decree permits Chang Ying, Financial Commissioner of Shansi, to retire on account of ill-health.

(3) The Governor of Kwei-chow reports the arrest of a notorious brigand, who had been the terror of the country about Tuh-ch'ang-lung in Ta-ting-Fu. Upon learning what a serious danger this man and his followers threatened to be, the military authority of P'ing-yüan Chow was set on his track, and this officer succeeded in storming the robber's retreat, and securing his mother, wives, and some of his band. The chief himself escaped to the Yünnan frontier, whither he was hotly pursued, and eventually he was seized in Szechwan, his captors having never ceased to keep close on his heels. After undergoing a trial, he was summarily executed, and the women he had carried off, and the lands he had taken forcible possession of, were restored to their lawful owners.

(4) Jui Lien, General at Jêh-ho, being about to proceed to the hunting grounds for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the survey lately made under his orders, states that he has left certain officers to carry on the despatch of ordinary business, and that he is taking his seal of office with him, in order that any matter of great importance may receive his personal attention while on the march.

(5) The Governor of Kwei-chow begs that, so far as his province is concerned, a year may be allowed to elapse before effect be given to the proposal of the Governor of Kiangsu that the practice be abolished of allowing officials to purchase exemption from the examination which it is necessary they should undergo prior to taking office. The object of the system was to raise funds for military purposes, and at the same time save subordinate officials the expense of going to the capital. Now that military operations have ceased, so also should this abnormal source of revenue, but Kwei-chow is not yet prepared for the sudden change, and a year's grace is applied for.—The Rescript directs the Board of Revenue to consider and report.

Oct. 26th.—(Court Circular.) Ho King 何璟, ex Governor-General of the Two Kiang, paid his respects on the expiration of his period of mourning, and had audience.

(1) A Decree appoints Liu Show-t'u 林壽圖, Financial Commissioner of Shan-si.

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuh-kien, submits a memorial exposing the irregularities which in a great measure tend to defeat the object of the literary examinations. Every man, he represents, who succeeds in attaining unmerited success, is one more deserving student deprived of his reward. By law, no lights should be allowed on the concluding day of the examinations, and such persons as allow the candidates to exceed the limit of time, should be visited with punishment at the hands of the superiors; while such candidates as make corrections of more than one hundred characters should be debarred from the second trial. There are found in practice, in this connection, two classes of abuses. The one is that essays, which should be handed in one evening, are occasionally not placed in the hands of the examiners until the next morning, when the candidates for the second trial are coming in. Contrary to regulations, lamps are kept burning all night, and in some instances, when remonstrated with, students will resist all authority and insist

on having their own way. The reason of this is twofold. Men who undertake to write out essays for others, neglect their own until the last moment; and again, men who are totally wanting in literary ability themselves wait until the gates are opened for the outgoing candidates, when they smuggle in a previously prepared essay which they copy and hand in as their own. The second class of abuse is this:—After the essays have been given up, copyists are employed to transcribe them. Amongst these copyists are men who having taken their degree at a previous examination, manage to get themselves engaged as transcribers, and then, for a consideration, undertake to amend the essays passing through their hands. The memorialist cannot but feel an interest in aspirants who, with but one chance in three years, risk their future on one day's earnest effort, and yet may find their prospects destroyed by the unscrupulous conduct of more influential men. He has therefore warned all officials connected with the examinations that they will be held responsible for any malpractice, and the transcribers through whose hands the essays all pass have been cautioned that the severest penalty will attend any underhand attempt to tamper with the papers to which they have access.—Rescript: It is noted.

(3) Ting Jih-chang, in a supplementary memorial, states, with reference to the foregoing document, that by law it is not permitted to address the Throne on the subject of the examinations during the year in which these are to be held. In the present instance, however, he would have been destitute of shame had the fear of incurring a penalty deterred him from exposing the abuses which have come to his knowledge. The object of his memorial, moreover, is the exposition of an existing law, not the addition of a new one. He, however, awaits their Majesties' decision as to whether he has laid himself open to punishment.—The Rescript is: The question of punishment need not be taken into consideration.

(4) The Governor of Hunan applies on behalf of Ma Ju-lung, at present Commander-in-chief in that province, for permission to take up for his son the literary degree conferred at the accession of the last Emperor on the sons of officials of certain standing. He has allowed the time to pass by within which he should have made the application, but he pleads as an excuse the turbulent times in Yunnan which at that time took up his attention.—Referred to the Board of War.

Oct. 27th.—(1) A Decree. Let Li Han-chang be transferred to the post of Governor-General of Hu Kwang; Ting Pao-chêng succeed to the office of Governor-General of Szech'wan; Wên Kêh be transferred to the Governorship of Shan-tung; and P'an Ting-sin succeed to the post of Governor of Yünnan.

(2) A Decree. Let Tu Jui-lien succeed to the post of Financial Commissioner of Yünnan; and Fang Sün-i to that of Judicial Commissioner of Szech'wan.

(3) A Decree. Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chêhkiang, in view of the greatly increased number of candidates, proposes that the military examinations shall be held in two different places, in order that he may divide the work of supervision with the military examiners. There were good and weighty reasons for ordaining that the examinations should be conducted under the personal supervision of the provincial Governor, and the Imperial Mandate should be obeyed without question; what then means this ill-considered proposal for a change? Yang Ch'ang-sün's suggestion is contrary to established usage, and is hereby negatived. Let his name be handed over to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(4) A Decree. Let Ho-King 何璟 succeed to the office of Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêhkiang.

(5) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu requests that the soup-kitchen at the Kwang-an gate in Peking may this year be opened a month earlier, and closed one month later than usual; and in a supplementary memorial the same official begs permission to establish a soup-kitchen at Lu-kow-k'iao, 12 miles to the west of Peking, where the freshets from the Hw'ên Ho have of late years caused considerable damage to the surrounding country.—Granted by rescript.

(6) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung Kiang (the Amur), having been directed to suggest some arrangement by which the province could bear a large portion of its expenses, submits for approval a proposal with that object in view. Hu Lan-t'ing, he remarks, has so far been the only city in the province where in addition to a tax on cattle, an impost has been levied on such articles as tobacco, wine, oil, &c. It is now proposed, after the first day of the eighth moon, to establish an office at the provincial capital (Sagalin) for the collection of a trade tax on tobacco, wine, oil, hemp, mushrooms, fish bones, deer's horns, furs, and hazel nuts, all of which articles have to pass

through the capital on the way to other marts. The tax to be levied is 3 per cent. on all sales, the article being then provided with a certificate which will guarantee it against any future exaction while within that jurisdiction. Any person detected in evading the duty will be fined to the extent of half the value of the goods in question; and inn-keepers and merchants failing to make due reports to the authorities will be held responsible.

(7) The acting Governor-General of Fuhkien states that when applying for rewards for such persons as had contributed to relieve the distress caused by the floods in Foochow, he was under the impression that the rank conferred carried with it no title to hold office. He has subsequently discovered that this held good only of ranks above that of District Magistrate, while all persons obtaining the title of Assistant Magistrate and such inferior grades would in due time attain substantial rank. The number of such subordinate officials awaiting vacancies in Fuhkien is already excessive, and the greater portion of them are utterly destitute; when they eventually get office the pockets of the people suffer in proportion, and disturbances cannot but follow if heavier burdens are laid upon them by the appointment of additional office seekers. It has been said that the purchase of rank is a greater evil than fire and flood, rapine and brigandage. These words may be too strong, but there is much truth in them. The one is but a temporary calamity, while the sufferings of the people resulting from the former are permanent. The present gain is far outweighed by the future evil. Who for example, even in the most desperate case, would drink poison to quench his thirst? After mature consideration, the memorialist states his intention to submit for His Majesty's favorable consideration the names of such persons as contributed money or grain during the late floods. The official body it is not necessary to reward, but on such of the gentry as by their good deeds have entitled themselves to recompense, it is requested that merely honorary rank be conferred.—Rescript: Let it be as proposed. The Board will take note.

October 28th.—(Court Circular.) Ho-king returns thanks for his appointment to the post of Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêhkiang; and Fang Sün-i 方濬頤 for his appointment to the Judgeship of Sze-chw'an.

(1) A Decree. The Yamên of Foreign Affairs memorialises requesting that orders

may be given for the speedy and equitable settlement of certain cases arising out of disturbances between "ordinary subjects"

民 *min*, and "converts" 教 *kiao*, in the Province of Sze-chw'an. It appears that the people of Sze-chw'an being at enmity with the converts of the same province, had stirred up strife against them. When the prisoners arrested in connection with this affair were arraigned before the authorities, it was an obvious duty to ascertain by a searching investigation the actual history of the disturbances, and to adjudicate upon them equitably and without loss of time. How comes it that this has been delayed so long, and that in the districts of Ch'wan-peh T'ing, Nei-kiang, Lin-shui, Nan-ch'ung, Pa-chow, and Ying-shan, there are cases arising out of disturbances between people and converts, none of which have been reported as settled? This is a grave instance of dilatoriness and neglect. We command the Tartar General of Ch'êng-tu, and the Governor-General of Sze-chw'an, to instruct the authorities at the places in question to investigate these cases without delay, and decide them in an equitable manner. They will also take steps for the due maintenance of order hereafter.

(2) A Decree expressing the Imperial regrets on the receipt of the intelligence of the death of Ch'un Yeo, 春佑, Captain General of the Bordered Yellow Incorporated Banner Corps. The deceased officer, trustworthy and diligent in the performance of his duty, had been advanced from a post in the Imperial Household to the Presidentship of the Mongolian superintendency, and, subsequently, was appointed one of the Comptrollers of the Household. A funeral pall is bestowed for the impending obsequies, and a grant of Tls. 500 is ordained for his funeral expenses.

(3) Ku-ni-yin-pu, acting Military Governor of Kirin, reports the trial and punishment of a Sub-Prefect, by name Ch'êng-lin. This officer was sent to eject certain squatters upon Government land; the squatters resisted, and in the struggle that ensued one of their number was killed by one of Ch'êng-lin's followers, and another taken prisoner. He was, however, released by Ch'êng-lin for a consideration. Subsequently the relatives of the squatter who was killed brought a charge of murder against Ch'êng-lin's follower, who absconded. Ch'êng-lin was called upon to produce him, and, being unable to do so, absconded also. He eventually, however, returned and surrendered

himself, and has now been sentenced to 100 blows with the heavy bamboo, and banishment to a distance of 3,000 li. Wu Yung-fa, the prisoner who was released, is sentenced to the same punishment for squatting on Government land, and the man who offered the bribe for his release is to receive 90 blows, and be banished for two years.

(4) The same officer requests that the usual winter hunt may this year be discontinued, as game is scarce, the expense heavy, and there are no men available. Granted by Rescript.

Oct. 29th.—(1) A Decree. By special favour, Ho-king is permitted to remain on horseback when entering the "forbidden city" (the Imperial Palace.)

(2) A Decree. From amongst all the Prefects holding office in the province of Kiangsu, let the most eligible person be selected to become Prefect of Soochow; and let Pi Pao-li 畢保釐 fill the vacancy thus entailed.

(3) The President of the Board of Punishments submits the deposition of the prisoner Yüan T'ing-kiao, who, on being arrested in Peking some time ago, as the ringleader of a local outbreak in Sze-chw'an, declared that he had come to the capital to denounce the authorities of that province for the indiscriminate slaughter of the population of a village, under the pretext that the people had risen in rebellion. The prisoner is being sent back to Sze-chw'an in order that he may be put on his trial, in obedience to the Decree lately issued. He still protests his innocence, and states that he came to Peking in 1873 to lay a complaint of extortion against the gentry of the district in Sze-chw'an which has lately been the scene of the riots. This on inquiry is found to be true. Li T'ing-kiao, it is recommended, should be sent back under guard to the provincial authorities for the purposes of further investigation.

(4) The Censor Li Ting-siao, in a memorial on the late disturbances in the Tung-hiang district in Sze-chw'an, severely criticises the report on the case submitted by the acting Governor-General Wên Kêh. The excessive levy of land tax by the Magistrate of Tung-hiang, and the wholesale slaughter of innocent inhabitants by the Commander-in-chief Li Yu-hêng, were matters which some time back came to the ears of the Censor, but he did not think it proper to be too precipitate in calling attention to the subject. Now, however, that the acting Governor-General's report has been published, he can no longer

maintain silence. On several points the report from Sze-chw'an is contradictory to itself, and the Censor proceeds to attack its statements one by one. In Wên Kêh's memorial the following passage occurs:—"The people of Tung-hiang are exceedingly turbulent. It was in this district that the 'white lily' rebel movement first originated. Of late years it has become a common thing for bands of insurgents to invest the city." Men's dispositions, the Censor observes, are not all alike; good and bad are both to be found; but he has never heard that good counsel has failed to have its effect in due time. Since the days of Kia-k'ing, the people have enjoyed for over one hundred years the blessings of the Imperial rule. The fact that the acting Governor-General drags in an affair a hundred years old as evidence of what now exists, and his misrepresentation of the nature of the disturbance, force upon one the conviction that he has represented innocent persons in a guilty light. If, as he says, the people have made a common practice of threatening the city, and the former Governor-General Wu T'ang moved troops to repress the rising, how comes it that Wu T'ang failed to report the circumstance? His predecessor Lo Ping-chang, too, was a most able officer, and it seems strange that he should have been in ignorance of what was passing. In the second place, the Sze-chw'an report states that the ringleader Yüan T'ing-kiao assembled a mob, and took up his position inside a stockade. Before the arrival of the military he frightened the country people into siding with him; and after the appearance of the Government troops, he sent out a body of men to pass themselves off as villagers who had come to tender their submission; his idea being to delay the operations of the force. The Censor learns that when Yüan T'ing-kiao besieged the city walls last year, the authorities satisfied themselves with merely sending a Prefect to restore order; whilst when, this year, Yüan T'ing-kiao sought safety in a stockade, a military force was despatched to destroy the place. Is not this treating a grave crime with leniency, and a slight offence with severity? It is but natural that on the sudden appearance of a force, the ignorant country people should seek refuge inside their fortified village, and pray for mercy as the soldiery approached. Since the country was laid waste by the rebels, the people have been in the habit of living in fortified villages; and if this fact is to stamp them as insurgents, then there is not a loyal

subject in the Empire. Again, the acting Governor-General's report asserts that a Prefect was attached to the force for the purpose of inducing those who had joined the insurgents under pressure, to disperse quietly; it being expected that once the ringleader was made prisoner quiet would soon be restored. The report continues that Yüan T'ing-kiao, at the head of several thousand men, engaged the Imperial troops, and that after several days' fighting, many stockades were carried and several hundred of the rebels put to death. Yüan T'ing-kiao, however, succeeded in escaping, and General Li Yu-hêng then returned to the capital.

If it be true, retorts the Censor, that Yüan T'ing-kiao got together some thousands of insurgents, then he was a criminal of the blackest dye; and this being the case, it should have been the duty of those conducting the operations to devise some means by which his capture could have been ensured. Instead of this, Li Yu-hêng proceeded to put to death the population of the fortified villages, leaving the chief offender to make good his escape, after which he quietly returned to the provincial capital. It then comes to this:— Either it is not true that the villagers resisted the constituted authority, in which case General Li Yu-hêng's indiscriminate slaughter is a crime of indescribable atrocity; or, it is true, and then one has to ask, why were not the military officials denounced and punished under martial law for leaving the scene of operations without orders, while the insurgent chief was still at large? A right minded Minister should feel distressed when it unfortunately happens that death is inflicted on misguided individuals, but Wên Kêh, on the contrary, talks about the civilities tendered by the Prefect and Magistrate on the General's departure, and dwells on this latter's reception amid fireworks and other manifestations of delight. If this is the state of mind of a pure and right-minded Minister, what shape would his approval take were a serious rebellion to be stamped out, or an important city recaptured? The Sze-chw'an memorial further states that General Li Yu-hêng has conducted military operations in Sze-chw'an for many years, and has never allowed his men to commit excesses. This implies that his troops are under good discipline. How then happens it that so many head of cattle were carried off? If it be said that it was the work of disbanded braves, how is it that an officer of such strict discipline comes to allow these

men to follow his force? The fact that cattle had to be restored to the lawful owners, shews that in the first instance proper discipline had not been maintained. It does not at all follow, in the present instance, that this officer's compassion for an ox implied benevolence towards the people (an allusion to a passage in Mencius.) When an Imperial Decree was issued, commanding Wên Kêh to make strict inquiry into the alleged outrages, he should have appointed some officer not connected with the matter. Instead of this, he deputed the same officer as had been previously associated with General Li Yu-hêng. It was not likely that this official would expose his colleague's misdeeds, and there is nothing but his bare word for the statement that the charge of wholesale murder against Li Yu-hêng is devoid of foundation. After pointing out several more discrepancies and suspicious circumstances in the report, the Censor prays that His Majesty will cause the truth to be arrived at, and as Wên Kêh cannot be trusted to conduct with justice and impartiality an inquiry into a matter which he has already grossly misrepresented, it is suggested that Li Han-chang, Wên Kêh's successor in the Sze-chw'an government, or some special Commissioner, be charged to ascertain the exact truth in this affair. (Rescript, ordering an enquiry to be instituted by Li Han-chang, already published.)

Oct. 30th.—The Court of Censorate memorialises stating that it has been addressed with a report signed by forty-seven officials, headed by the Secretary Siao 'Tsung-yü, all natives of the province of Szech'wan, and serving in different posts in Peking, with reference to outrages committed by an officer in command of troops in the shape of the massacre of innocent persons, violation, and abduction, within the knowledge of actual ear and eye witnesses, a searching investigation into which acts they now pray for. The members of the Court having jointly held inquiry into the circumstances, they find that the person appearing to deliver the petition is named Liu-yü, aged 41, a native of the Wu-k'iao district in Chihli, who states that he is sent by the official Siao Tsung-yü and those acting with him to present the document they have drawn up and the stamped bond by which it is accompanied, and begs that the paper itself be perused for all needful particulars. The petition is found to run as follows:—"Whereas your petitioners are natives of the province of Szech'wan, and whereas in the spring of this year the Governor-General of the province

despatched a body of troops to quell a disturbance arising out of the act of one Yüan T'ing-kiao, a denizen of the district of Tung-hiang, they, being resident at Peking, have received repeated communications by letter from friends and relatives of their own, and have likewise had information supplied by the candidates who have arrived at Peking for the civil and military examinations; all accounts agreeing in the statement that the officer in command of the forces, Li Yeo-hêng

李有恒, had put innocent persons to death under false pretexts, and had carried off women and girls as captives. It was not until the appearance of the Imperial Decree on the 5th October that they learnt the tenour of the acting Governor-General's report on the subject, declaring that no such thing had occurred as the acts of massacre, violation, and abduction with which Li Yeo-hêng was charged—a statement diametrically opposed to the information in your petitioners' possession. With regard to the injustice committed in this case, they humbly beg leave to declare, the entire Province knows that it was in consequence of having failed to obtain a reduction in the illegal imposts and exactions on the part of the District Magistrate, against which Yüan T'ing-kiao had appealed in vain at the provincial capital and at Peking, that he assembled a body of people with whom he proceeded to the tax office to hold a reckoning. The District Magistrate, Sun Ting-yang, applied for reinforcements hereupon, on the score of an assemblage of lawless persons having been got together; and the officer in command of the Lü Wu battalion, named Sieh, having been the first to arrive at Tung-hiang, the people, in a state of alarm, went to his camp to present a petition. The officer Sieh, having ascertained that Yüan T'ing-kiao had taken to flight, and that there were no insurgents to proceed against, made a demonstration of authority, and the public mind relapsed into a state of quiet. When Li Yeo-hêng arrived with his force at Tung-hiang, the people proceeded as before to present a statement of their grievances at his headquarters; and upon this Li Yeo-hêng, with the object of securing credit to himself, under false pretences seized, bound, and decapitated the whole of the large number of persons forming the deputation, his soldiery proceeding, furthermore, to commit excesses in the nature of rape and plunder. The population, in a state of the utmost alarm, fled hurriedly to their

fortified posts ; whereupon Li Yeo-hêng, on the plea of endeavouring to capture the man Yüan T'ing-kiao, proceeded against the Ts'ing-fêng stockade, contrived to have the gate opened, and perpetrated a sweeping and ruthless massacre. He also butchered the inmates of other fortified posts, whom he lured into his power by stratagem; and proceeding thence to the market-town of Kwan Tu (mandarin ferry), where, as it happened, it was a fair-day, he slaughtered the traders and carried off their goods. A number of boats were laden with the women and girls who were carried off, and with these he dropped down the river through the Ta Hien and K'ü Hien districts in Sui-ting Fu, in the sight of all. Along the course of his journey he posted up stamped proclamations, falsely declaring that 'in the battles delivered, the numbers slain and beheaded are beyond compute.' The actual fact is that the persons put to death and carried away as prisoners were simply law-abiding people, in no wise coming under the category of evil-doers, nor were they even members of the assemblage which followed Yüan T'ing-kiao to hold a reckoning at the tax-office. All the facts above-stated are declared on the testimony of witnesses by sight and hearing. The acting Governor-General Wên having begun by screening the guilty party, it is to be feared that the Governor-General Li, on arriving at his post, will be hoodwinked by him also; and for this reason the present petition is presented. A specimen of the stamped proclamation issued by Li Yeo-hêng, which has been sent forward, is annexed, and the Court is entreated to memorialise the Throne on petitioners' behalf, soliciting a renewed and searching enquiry."

On receipt of the foregoing, the Court of Censorate observes that, with reference to the case in question, the acting Governor-General Wên Kêh has lately reported that no such acts as those of massacre, rape, and plunder with which Li Yeo-hêng is charged have been committed by him. The present petitioners, however, advance their allegations on the testimony not only of letters received from their kinsfolk, but also upon that of candidates who have come up to Peking for the examinations. The evidence of these witnesses is diametrically opposed to the statements made by Wên Kêh. It is further to be noted that in the stamped proclamation issued by Li Yeo-hêng, there occurs the statement that "in the Ts'ien-fêng and other fortified villages prisoners without number have been captured and put to death." This, furthermore, is in direct contradiction

to the statement in the Governor-General's report that none of the inhabitants of the stockades had been captured or executed. The Court feels bound to bring the representation lodged with it to the notice of the sovereign, and to pray that a decision may be come to as to the measures which should be taken under the circumstances. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 20th instant).

Oct. 31st.—No documents of importance.

Nov. 1st.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the high authorities of Yünnan, who have denounced a batch of corrupt or incompetent local officials. The individuals referred to are degraded or dismissed the service, according to the recommendations submitted.

(2) The Director-General of the Grain Transport service, Wên Pin, memorialises reporting the passage of the last six divisions of the grain fleet of the present year across the Yellow River and their entrance into the northern section of the Grand Canal. The first half of the grain fleet, in six divisions, effected a passage some time ago, although with difficulty, owing to a sudden subsidence of the current in the Yellow River. By dint of great exertions, the vessels were hauled into the canal, and their arrival at Tientsin on the 20th September has been heard of. The remaining six divisions were kept waiting for a length of time at Pa-li Miao, for want of water to float them into the canal; and the Director-General himself was prevented from hurrying to the spot to superintend operations in person through the necessity of attending to the rebellious movement which had shew itself among the lawless offenders of the Haichow region. The ringleaders of this movement have now been captured, and their followers dispersed. Reports have been received from the local authorities, stating that every effort had been used to swell the volume of the Canal by leading water in from every available source, and that the cargoes had been lightened by the employment of carts for short distances, so that by the 30th September the junks had all reached the Ten-li station north of Tung-ch'ang Fu, where there is abundance of water in the Canal, and it was calculated that in another fortnight they would be at Lin-ts'ing. Owing, however, to the lowness of the water in the river Wei, grave apprehensions are entertained lest there should not be an adequate depth remaining, when once the sluices have been opened, to suffice for the whole of the squadron. Steps are being taken to

provide means of lighterage and transshipment by country boats. It is observed that, in general, the navigation of the Canal is comparatively easy, and the passage of the Yellow River the main source of difficulty; but this year the usual conditions have been reversed.

Nov. 2nd.—(1) A decree sanctioning the opening of four relief agencies for the distribution of food to the distressed population in the country around Peking, on the application of the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, in consequence of the prevailing dearth.—No other documents of importance.

Nov. 3rd. — (1) Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, and his colleague K'ing-yü, memorialise reporting the decision arrived at in the rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking in January, 1875. The complainant, Wang Tsi-yao, had alleged that individuals guilty of participation in an act of burglary, by which his father had lost his life, had been screened by the village head-boroughs. His accusation is found to be groundless, and he is sentenced to undergo the penalty of eighty blows, which, however, is remitted under the Act of Grace of March, 1875.

(2) Wên-che, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Soochow, memorialises with reference to the order he has received for the production of 35 seals of state, in white and green jadestone, to be manufactured according to pattern. Immediate steps had been taken for the purchase of material and the engagement of artificers; but it has to be observed that, since the extinction of the rebellion jadestone has been very scarce in Kiangsu, and the cost of labour much dearer than formerly. Skilled workmen, moreover, are scarcely to be found. Whilst the order for green jade is comparatively easy to be filled, white stone is in almost all cases subject to defect or flaw, and in general is cut in squares not exceeding one cubic inch in size. In the order that has been received, although the number of seals, out of the whole thirty-five, which are to be cut respectively in white or green jade is not specified, there are, at the same time, ten seals of a larger size than the rest, such as that bearing the inscription *Tsun Ts'in* 尊親 (respect for kindred), the substance for which should be white. In consequence of the difficulty of procuring adequate material, it is now proposed to manufacture five of these seals in white and five in green, the remaining twenty-five being all in white

stone. The Superintendent does not consider it advisable to give the work out to contract, in view of the difficulty of obtaining proper material, as he apprehends that the price would be materially enhanced; and he proposes, consequently, to purchase stone and engage artificers himself, according to the regulations heretofore in force.

(3) Wên Che farther memorialises with reference to the order heretofore received for materials for the binding of volumes of the *Shih Luh*, or "Veritable Record" of the last reign (the Emperor T'ung Che, 1862-1874.) The orders received were as follows:—1,900 satin wrappers, with raised dragon pattern, and silk lining; 80 silk-lined lute-string wrappers; 720 rolls of lute-string; 4,000 *chang* (about 18,000 yards) of silk braid; 4,000 chased ivory slips for fastening. The work was forthwith put in hand; and the order being now completed, it is proposed to forward the packages by steamer to Tientsin instead of by the land route through Shantung, where, it is understood, the roads have been rendered difficult in places by floods.

In a postscript memorial, Wên Che represents that, according to regulation, the cost of manufactures for Imperial use should be defrayed by supplies issued from the provincial treasury, a deduction of nine candareens per tael (9 per cent.) being reserved to meet the cost of transport, allowance to the Board of Revenue, etc., etc. This deduction goes under the name of *shên yü* 申餘 percentage. The estimate which was formed at the outset, with rigid economy in view, for the cost of the order now executed, was Taels 75,000; but the work being of a nature requiring special attention and excellence of manufacture, and the deduction of 9 per cent. for expenses having farther to be made from the sum allotted, it is found that an additional amount of Tls. 7,517.6.0.2 is required to cover the necessary outlay. Application for authority to issue this sum has already been made to the Board of Revenue by the Provincial Governor, but no response has as yet been received. It is now entreated that authority may be sent without delay, more particularly as orders have been received from Peking to send forward the materials prepared within the period of one month, as the compilation of the Veritable Record is complete, and it is to be laid before the Throne on an auspicious day during the autumn months.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

Nov. 4th.—(Court Circular.) Li Hō-nien, Director General of the Yellow River, had audience of leave on departure for his post.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuh-kien, who has denounced an acting Magistrate for the receipt of illegal fees. Ting Jih-ch'ang having obtained the removal of Yang Pao-wu, Magistrate of the Kia-i district, for this offence, appointed the expectant Magistrate Ho Lwan to act as his successor; but Ho Lwan, on taking office, is found to have accepted illegal fees on the stamping of deeds from the clerks in his office, and not only made no attempt to reduce their amount but actually endeavoured to increase them. For conduct so disgraceful, Ho Lwan is ordered to be stripped of his rank, and he is to be denounced to the Throne in case evidence of the perpetration of extortion or the like abuses is brought against him. The request made by Ting Jih-ch'ang, for the infliction of a penalty upon himself, for having mistakenly recommended the delinquent official, is graciously passed over.

(2) The Acting Governor-General of Szech'wan reports the result of an enquiry into an appeal case of long standing, the first report upon which had been rejected as unsatisfactory by the Board of Punishments, with the observations that the depositions sent up from the province were questionably obscure, and that the judgment pronounced had slurred over the merits of the case. The original dispute related to the execution of a man named Liu P'ei-jên, in 1868, by order of the then acting Governor-General Ts'ung-shih, on a charge of instigating the people of the Tung-kiang district to resistance of authority, the fact being that the District Magistrate owed him a large sum of money previously borrowed on public account. The result of the present enquiry is to affix the blame of technical irregularity in procedure upon the District Magistrate and another officer who acted as his delegate, and the penalty of perpetual exclusion from the public service is proposed in the case of the former.

Nov. 5th.—(1) A decree, awarding a tablet as a token of thanksgiving to the temple of the gods of the Yellow River, in gratitude for the preservation of the banks from injury during the freshets of last summer, as reported by the Governor, Ting Pao-chêng. Ten sticks of Tibetan incense are forwarded at the same time as thank offerings.

(2) A decree sanctioning the admittance to compete, next spring, at the higher literary examinations, of the following classes of *Kü-jên* graduates at the autumn examinations just concluded at Peking, viz:—1st class, 17; 2nd class, 30; 3rd class, 62.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces memorialises submitting a list of the names of certain military officers who distinguished themselves in the month of June last in effecting the capture of certain criminals, ringleaders of the "Turban brigands," who had risen against lawful authority in the districts on the borders of Kiangsu and Anhwei. The capture of the principal leader, Kw'ang T'ung by name, and others of the band, the remainder having been dispersed, was reported in a memorial despatched to the Throne on the 11th August last; and on the 18th August a rescript was issued in reply, sanctioning the submission of the recommendations now sent forward.—Rescript, sanctioning the proposed distribution of honours.

(4) The same high official memorialises reporting that on the 29th December, 1875, the cruisers of the Kiangsu marine had attacked a body of pirates off Lêng-kia Ho (apparently a creek in the Yangtze estuary), of whom they had captured twelve, beside killing nine in action. Honours and rewards are requested for the civil and military officers concerned.

(5) The acting Governor-General of Szech'wan memorialises requesting the addition of a number of degrees to be competed for, at the civil and military examinations, by the scholars of various districts, in recognition of the sums contributed by these districts to the public exchequer in time of need. The regulations heretofore drawn up provide for the addition of one civil and one military degree for each amount of Taels 10,000 contributed in any one district, for one examination, the former rule of additions in perpetuity having been abrogated. The amounts which were raised in 1869, as a special contribution to the needs of the public service 津貼, over and above the regular taxation, in 34 departments and districts of the province, form a total of Taels 413,301. It is proposed to take credit for Tls. 350,000 of this amount, giving 35 degrees to be competed for. The balance left out of account it is proposed to reserve for addition to the total of sums hereafter to be similarly reported.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

Nov. 6th. — Yü-she, Commissioner-in-chief in Kokonor, reports having performed the annual sacrifice to the God of the Seas, and held a durbar of the Mongolian Chiefs. He left his post, accompanied by the Taotai and Prefect of Si-ning, on the 12th September last, and, attended by an escort of cavalry and infantry, proceeded to Ch'a-han-to-lo-hai, where he entertained the Mongolian Princes and Nobles in the order of their rank, and distributed amongst them presents of silks and satins, peacock feathers, and buttons, swords and other articles. The Chiefs of the Tibetan tribes were also liberally supplied with gifts, in acknowledgment of which all bowed the head in the direction of the Throne.

(2) Ts'ung-li, Lieutenant-General at Shan-hai Kwan, reports having sent to Peking, for the use of the Inner Household, a quantity of ginseng which a medicine merchant in Peking had attempted to smuggle. It is the rule that ginseng so seized should be sent to the Inner Household, and that the guilty parties should be punished for their offence. In the present instance, however, the crime was committed previously to the last Act of Grace, and the offender thus escapes being sent to the Board of Punishments to be further dealt with.

Nov. 7th.—(1) The Governor-General of Chihli begs that Ch'ên Hwan-wên (陳煥文), Magistrate of the district of Ts'ing-ho (清河縣), may be handed to the Board for punishment for allowing numerous cases of burglary to occur in his district during the early part of the year. Li Hung-chang, in anticipation of disturbances caused by the drought, gave orders to his subordinates to take extra precautions, but the Magistrate of Ts'ing-ho Hien appears to have taken no steps whatever in obedience to these instructions.—A Rescript refers Ch'ên Hwan-wên's offence to the Board of Punishments.

(2) Li Hung-chang forwards to His Majesty a posthumous memorial prepared by Shên Chao-yün (沈兆雲), formerly Financial Commissioner in Chekiang, when he felt that his end was approaching. The memorialist dwells on the devotion shewn by the deceased minister throughout the course of a long career, and especially recalls his important services in saving the city of K'ai-feng from falling into the hands of the rebels. It is not for the memorialist to suggest whether or no a posthumous title should be conferred on

the deceased, but a precedent for such a step is quoted.

As a reason why some delay has occurred in transmitting the memorial, Li Hung-chang states that he was at Chefoo, engaged in the Yunnan negotiations, at the time that the deceased's relatives forwarded the document to him.

(3) The same high official recommends for the vacant colonelcy at Peh-t'ang, an officer of the name of She Hung-tsu, who is put forward as specially fitted for the post. The forts at Peh-t'ang are of equal importance to those at Taku, and now that they are undergoing repairs, and that the garrison is being practised in foreign drill, no officer not thoroughly conversant with the duties required of him would be equal to the position.—Rescript: Referred to the Board of War.

(4) The same states that Shen Pao-tsing (沈保靖), Taotai of the Kwang-Jao-Kiu-Nan Circuit in Kiangsi (Taotai at Kiukiang), has contributed Tls. 6,000 to relieve the distress caused by the drought in the North. It is his wish that the money be divided between the charitable institutions in Peking and Tientsin.

Nov. 8th.—(1) The Censor Ying Chên, an Imperial clansman, memorialises urging the necessity of modification of the rules affecting the public employment and the allowances granted to the members of the Imperial kindred (宗室). Commencing with the apophthegms that "in the art of good government, a prime essential is proper care bestowed upon the foundations of the State," and that "legislation should move in harmony with the times," he proceeds to point out that the number of civil and military posts accessible to Imperial clansmen are few in number, the majority of these, moreover, consisting in metropolitan offices. In former times, the openings thus provided may have appeared abundantly liberal in proportion to the then limited class to which they applied; but with the great and continually increasing augmentations in number to be taken into account, it is impossible for those who cherish a desire for advancement to do otherwise, in view of the difficulty of obtaining employment, than retire into the background and long for better times. As regards the Imperial clansmen of the more distant degrees, under the rule originally introduced, a state pensioner was only allowed to commence drawing his allowance of two taels (per mensem) at the age of ten, and it was not until the age of twenty that the rate was increased to three taels. The limit of

years at which the pension of two taels begins was subsequently advanced to the age of fifteen. The scale of allowances fixed at the outset was sufficient to meet the wants of the recipients at a time when their numbers were still few and when the revenues of the different princely families sufficed for the support of all their respective scions; but, at the present time, there are several thousands of individuals belonging the class of "red-letter" clansmen (i.e., those who, being within certain near limits of consanguinity, have their names inscribed in red ink in the roll of the Imperial family), and the total allowance provided for issue at the rates of two and three taels respectively suffices for no more than a general distribution of little more than one tael to each person. This allowance, inadequate as it is to the needs of the individual himself, is obviously insufficient to enable him to support his parents or his own offspring. As everyone has claims of this nature upon him, and is left without means of satisfying them, the consequence is that members of the Imperial kindred are seen to be involved, time after time, in judicial prosecutions. The more distant connections of the reigning house, who come under the category of Gioro (i.e., collateral descendants of the original founder of the dynasty), and who also number several thousands in the "red-letter" class, are, on the contrary, seldom complained against for breaches of the law. The reason of this is that employment in the public service is as freely open to them as to any of the Manchu nationality. It is prayed, in conclusion, that the existing regulations be revised, with a view to correcting the hardships now exposed.—Rescript, referring the subject for deliberation, already published.

(2) The Governor of Shantung memorialises referring to his previous report on the progress made by the second half of the grain fleet bound northwards along the Grand Canal. The vessels reached the entrance to the northernmost section of the Canal at Lin-t'ing at a later period than usual, and owing to the drought of the season, the depth of water in the river Wei was falling off daily. Orders were consequently given for the trans-shipment of the cargoes into junks from the Wei, thus allowing the southern vessels to effect their return unloaded. Report has now been received to the effect that the 105 vessels forming the second half (six divisions) of the year's transport service effected the passage from the province of Shantung into that of Chihli on the

16th and 17th October; and the Governor has reason to hope that they will reach, without further delay, the Celestial store-houses.

(3) The Governor of Honan reports the despatch to Peking of 800 rolls of K'ai-fêng silk and 100 rolls of Nan-yang satin, which were ordered to be furnished by the provincial government to the Board of Revenue, in a despatch received in March last.

Nov. 9th,—(1) Ting Pao-chêng Governor of Shantung, memorialises reporting the execution of a lunatic for the crime of parricide. The criminal, Li Tsün-t'ing, was the son of Li Ngan-ts'ing, a dyer by trade, residing in the Tsow district; and, as his mental alienation was intermittent, after its first outbreak in 1874, and as moreover he was quite harmless, his father prevailed upon the local headborough and his neighbours to refrain from making the report (prescribed by law) to the district authority. On the night of the 23rd January last, Li Tsün-t'ing being seized with a return of his mania, he rose from his bed, seized a chopper, and after flourishing it wildly about, approached his father's sleeping place and hacked him to death. He was eventually secured by his brother with the assistance of the *tipao* and neighbours; and after having been removed to the provincial capital for trial before the superior authorities, where all the facts have been fully established, it being ascertained, in addition, that his lunacy was not feigned and that the act of which he is found guilty was not committed as a consequence of any antecedent quarrel or with the aid of accomplices, he was sentenced, as the law directs, to suffer death by the lingering (*ling-ch'e*) process. The scene of the murder being upwards of 300 *li* distant from the place of final trial, execution has been carried into effect, in conformity with the provisions of the law, at the provincial capital. The head of the parricide has been forwarded to his native place for exposure; and the *tipao* and nearest neighbour, who neglected the duty imposed upon them by law, of making report of the lunatic's condition to the district Magistrate, are sentenced to undergo the penalty of 100 blows, with privilege of commutation.

(2) The Governor of Chêh-kiang memorialises reporting that he has resumed the discharge of his duty before the expiration of the two months' sick leave granted to him by decree in August last. For the last four months he had been under continual medical treatment, but, mindful of the

gratitude which is due for the Imperial bounty with which he has been so largely favoured, he has not failed to occupy himself, for a certain period each morning, with the more important class of public questions presenting themselves, leaving ordinary matters of routine to be attended to by the Financial Commissioner. Toward the middle of September, however, rumours began to be largely circulated to the effect that necromancers had made their way into Chêhkiang from Kiangsu, were employing "paper men" to cut off queues and strip fowls of their feathers, and also to perform the part of incubi. Within a space of some ten days, the prefectures of Hu-chow, Kia-hing, and Hang-chow became alive with lying rumours, and the villagers betook themselves to beating gongs and drums, each night becoming witness to the outbreak of a number of alarms. Suspicion was also cast upon the missionary establishments of foreigners, against which mischief was in contemplation. The Governor issued proclamations and required his subordinates to impose stringent restrictions upon any movement of the kind, as a result of which action causes of disturbance have been obviated. In order more fully to discharge his duty, he has returned to the full exercise of his functions before the expiration of his period of congé.

Nov. 10th.—(1) A Decree. Liu K'wên-yih memorialises requesting that a Brigadier-General be commanded to proceed with expedition to his post. Let Ts'ung-shih (Governor-General of Shêng-king), direct Chang Têh-luh, Brigadier-General of Kao-chow, in Kwangtung, to proceed without delay to his post, in order to the due discharge of the duties of his rank and office.

(2) A decree commanding the late Prefect of Kwei-lin Fu, in Kwangsi, Luh Fu-lin, to be ordered to Kwangtung, on the application of the Governor-General Liu Kw'ên-yih, for service in that province.

(3) Ku-ui-yin-pu, Military Governor of Kirin, memorialises reporting the capture, trial, and sentence of certain criminals guilty of an act of robbery and wholesale murder committed in January last.

Nov. 11th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Wu Hung-ên, who had represented that when the district city of T'ung-liang in Szech'wan was besieged in 1861 by the rebels, the siege was three times raised, and that, during the time of the beleaguering, the city walls were seen to be thronged by a display of banners and military insignia—a visible manifestation of supernatural aid. He requests that an

Imperial tablet be conferred upon the temple of the God of War at the place in question. The Governor-General of Szech'wan is ordered to make enquiry and report upon this case.

No other documents of importance.

Nov. 12th. — (1) The Governor and Deputy-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu memorialise in obedience to the decree of Oct. 22nd, in which they were commanded to report upon the measures needful toward relieving the distress prevalent among the population of the region surrounding Peking, in consequence of the drought and deficient harvests. They propose the establishment of four additional relief agencies in the neighbourhood of the capital, at which in conformity with the precedent of 1871, two piculs of millet should be distributed daily in boiled rations.—Sanctioned by rescript, already published.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, Ts'ung-shih, memorialises reporting the completion of new cavalry barracks at Hing-king. The cost of construction, independently of the old materials employed, has been Tls. 7,710.

(3) In a supplementary memorial the same functionary reports upon the arms and munitions supplied for the use of the additional force of 460 Bannermen who have been detailed to augment the fixed garrison of Hing-king. There have been issued for this purpose 48 gingals and 300 matchlocks 鳥槍紅衣炮. The supply of ammunition annually required will be 2,218 catties of ordinary gunpowder, and catties 145.0.5 of priming powder, catties 3,363.1.2 of leaden bullets, and 2,262 *chang* of slowmatch.

(4) Ts'ung-shih farther memorialises respecting the tax-stations which it is proposed to establish at four frontier gates on the high roads leading from the province of Shêng-king into the adjoining province of Kirin and the country known as "beyond the border" (i.e., the region adjacent to the north of Corea.) The merchandise brought from the parts referred to, consisting in tobacco, hemp, grain or pulse, blue dye-stuff, and soda, is imported by cart during the winter, when the roads are in good order, when also merchandise of different kinds, soft coal, etc., is sent northwards out of the province. The taxes levied at the four great barriers on the northern roads have hitherto been irregular in their incidence. It is now intended to place each station under a proper official, and effect the levy of the tax on a uniform footing.

Nov. 13th.—(1) The Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow proposes a reorganization of the army in Yünnan, which, as at present constituted, is insufficient for the requirements of the province. While the rebellion continued, the army was composed solely of irregulars; and when peace was restored so many difficulties presented themselves in the way of disbanding these irregulars, that it was found expedient to draft some of them into the regular force. It was then discovered, however, that there were too many regulars for the pay available, so that part of the latter had again to be drafted back into the irregular corps. In the confusion of the times, it so happened that most of the men enlisted as regulars had never been irregulars, and a great part of those supposed to have been re-employed as irregulars had never been regulars, and that with the exception of the few battalions sent to the capital, the best portion of these local levies existed in name only. What was intended to be an economical move proved to be a useless waste. The Board charged with the reorganization of the province after the rebellion now makes the following proposition. At present, the full amount of pay is issued for that portion of the regular army which has been transformed into irregulars for service on the frontier and in the capital, but for the rest, the estimates have been reduced by seven-tenths, and the yearly expenditure at this moment stands thus:—

Three-tenths of pay of	
regulars	Tls. 110,940.2.6.0
Regulars transformed	
into irregulars	155,220.0 0.0
Officers' pay	60,336.0.0.0
Anti-extortion allow-	
ances, fodder, office	
expenses, &c.	140,598.3.5.6
	Tls. 464,094.6.1.6

The number of regulars, after deducting those that have been enrolled as irregulars, having been reduced by seventy per cent., the number remaining is quite inadequate to the needs of the province. It is now suggested that the regular force shall be raised to fifty per cent. of the standard footing, and that pay for that amount of men shall be duly issued. This will necessitate an increased expense of Tls. 153,142 5.7 4 over and above the thirty per cent. of the standard pay now supplied; or, with the pay and anti-extortion allowance of officers, and the thirty per cent. of the pay of garrison troops now issued, a total of Tls. 404,681 for regular

troops. For purposes of garrison and defence this force will be ample, but the rebellion has not been suppressed sufficiently long to admit of any reduction in the irregulars, and a force of twelve battalions of the latter must still be kept up at an annual cost of some hundred thousand taels. The Governor-General, after anxious deliberation with the Governor, who has been acting for some time as Governor-General, supports the suggestion of the Board as the most economical and effectual plan. If it be found that these estimates are more than sufficient they will be reduced, and when quiet is restored on the frontier the forces stationed there can be disbanded as far as is possible.

(2) The same official sends up an application on behalf of several military officers who request that they may be exempted from cavalry or archery practice, the wounds which they received during the rebellion having incapacitated them for that exercise. —Granted by Rescript.

November 14th.—(1) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Liang Kiang, requests that the rice commutation amount received from Ts'ing-ho Hien and six other districts may be appropriated to the payment of the 300 Manchu soldiers recently sent down from King Chow in Hupeh, to reinforce the Nanking garrison. A Rescript directs the Board of Revenue to report on the subject.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsu has received a petition from Luh Nai-p'u, formerly an expectant Taotai in Anhwei, to the effect that his father, a man devoted to works of benevolence, had been cut off before he could accomplish what he had in contemplation. In obedience to his father's dying commands, the petitioner had built a dead-house in the district of Yuan-ho at a cost of Tls. 5,790; he had further purchased 1,003 *mow* of land for Tls. 5,542; and erected twenty-six huts at an expense of Tls. 957. The revenue of the whole, after deducting taxes and sacrificial expenses, was to be devoted to the relief of poor relations, and the petitioner begged that a memorial might be submitted to the Throne in order that the facts of the case might be known for ever hereafter.

(3) Jui-lien, the Manchu General at Jêh-ho, reports his return from his tour of inspection of the Imperial hunting grounds. The parks have been much encroached upon by squatters, whole villages having sprung up in places. Hills which were once covered with trees, and well stocked with large game, have been

stript of timber, and even in places where cover is still to be found, the memorialist, in the course of several days' journey, failed to see a single wild animal. What he has now observed convinces him that his predecessors did not personally inspect the hunting grounds, but trusted to the reports of their subordinates. The mischief is now past repairing, for to eject people who have been on the land for some ten years would be an act not compatible with the Imperial benevolence. What can now be done is to consult the interests both of the State and of the people, and the memorialist will shortly propose certain regulations having that object in view.

Nov. 15th.—The Literary Chancellor of Shensi and Kansuh recommends for a reward two expectant officials, who have each contributed over one thousand taels towards the funds of two colleges, whose revenue, derived from money laid out at interest in pawn-shops, had been greatly reduced since the ravages of the rebels.

Nov. 16th. — (1) The Astronomical Board submits the Imperial Calendar for the coming year.

(2) A Decree. The Censor Têng K'ing-lin has presented a memorial praying that in the interests of justice a clear exposition of the law may be given. Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.

(3) Yü-luh, Governor of Anhwei, reports on the working of the Custom houses lately re-established at Wu-hu and Fêng-hwang. There are two reasons, the superintendents of the Custom houses inform him, why the receipts cannot be expected to come up to those of former days. In the first place, trade has never recovered since the rebellion; and next, the revenue is collected in a different manner. The steamers now running up and down the Yangtze engross the greater portion of the merchandise traffic; whilst for places in the Yangtze or Hwai waters, to which steamers do not ply, passes are issued by the offices of Maritime Customs, which exempt goods from the payment of duty. The limited receipts of the Wu-hu and Fêng-hwang Custom houses are due to the encroachment of the Maritime Customs, and while it may be true that what is a loss to the Inland is so much gain to the Foreign (i.e., maritime) Custom house, still, Wu-hu and Fêng-hwang considered by themselves, the revenue of former days cannot be looked for. The Custom houses at these two places have now been at work for over two months, and during that period Tls. 20,000 have been collected at Wu-hu, and Tls. 3,000 at Fêng-hwang,

but there is reason to hope that with proper management the revenue may improve. The Governor endorses the observations of the superintendents, and points out that when the standard amount to be collected at these two places was fixed, foreign trade did not exist. Now, steamers go up and down the Yangtze, and foreign passes penetrate to all parts of the Yangtze and the region of the Hwai, depriving the Custom houses of 50 or 60 per cent. of their duties. The Governor concludes by requesting that the Custom houses may continue as a tentative measure; and if trade revives, he will further memorialise recommending that the former regulations may again be put in force, to the end that the established system may be adhered to. —Granted by Rescript.

(4) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, applies for permission to retire on account of ill-health. When appointed to his present post he begged leave to resign, because he thought the duties too onerous for the state of his health, but his resignation was refused. Since his arrival in Fuhkien, he has attempted to show his gratitude for Imperial favours by sacrificing himself entirely to the State and the people. The exposure to the weather day and night during the floods seriously affected his constitution, and his malady was aggravated by his untiring exertions in connection with the examinations. He would well like to continue staggering under his work, but affairs on the seaboard are of such importance that any shortcoming on his part might prove a serious matter to the State. The Rescript grants him one month's congé for the care of his health.

(5) A memorial from the same official deploras the corrupt state of the administration in Formosa. On his arrival in Fuhkien he sent injunctions that all illegal fees should cease to be exacted, and in order that the people at large might know the fact, he caused proclamations in stone to be put up throughout the country. It has been his duty to denounce many officials for extortion, amongst others the Magistrates of the Chang-hwa and Kia-yi districts. When the late Magistrate of Kia-yi was dismissed, the memorialist appointed Ho-lüan, an officer of whom he had previously very favorably reported. The functionary in question was cautioned not to follow in the evil ways of his predecessors, and the Taotai of T'aiwan was directed to keep a watch on him, and to report immediately should he be found wanting. The Taotai has now denounced him as even more extortionate than the

previous incumbents. The official fees claimed of his underlings by the Magistrate of Kia-yi have usually amounted to four or five thousand dollars, whereas this man exacted over ten thousand; and this sum, when it comes to be wrung out of the people, is doubled more than twice over. The dismissal of this official, as recommended by the Taotai of T'aiwan, is not sufficient punishment. It is requested that he be stript of his rank, and that the recommendation for promotion already preferred in consideration of earlier services may be cancelled. Should it appear on inquiry that there are other charges against him, he is to be further punished with additional severity.

Nov. 17th.—(1) The Governor of Shantung recommends for favorable consideration Li Yüan-hwa, the Financial Commissioner, who in the face of bad harvests so well laid his plans that money and materials for the embankments of the Yellow River were never wanting. As the success of the efforts to restrain the floods depends on ready supplies, the importance of the Commissioner's services ought to be considered.

(2) The same high official, at the instance of the inspectors of the river banks, and of the neighbouring gentry, requests that honours be conferred on Lih Ta-Wang (the Great Prince Lih) for his marked interposition on two different occasions when the safety of those engaged in repairing the banks of the Yellow River at Kia-Chwang was most seriously jeopardised. On the last occasion, when the situation of the workmen was all but hopeless, the officials directing them knelt and prayed, and Lih Ta Wang almost immediately quieted the waters, and made the situation secure.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report. (N.B.—Lih Ta-Wang is the deified spirit of a former Director General of the Yellow River. (See *Gazette* of December 7th, 1874.)

Nov. 18th.—(1) A Decree. The acting Governor-General of Min-Chên reports that Brigadier-General Hwang Lien is broken down in health. We command that he go into retirement with his present rank, and that Pei Kin-ts'üen 貝錦泉 fill the post of Brigadier-General of Hai-t'an (海壇) in his stead.

(2) Fêng-shên, Military Governor of the Amur province, who had earlier proposed that the gunpowder required for his troops should be manufactured on the spot, now sends back an amended estimate

of the cost of manufacture, his previous estimate having been rejected as too high. The items as they now stand are:—36,811 catties of gunpowder, and 344 catties of priming powder, costing 28,261 strings of cash; 6,341 catties of hemp, 100 feet of cloth, and 186 baskets, costing 2,377 strings of cash; making a total of 30,638 strings, which at the exchange of two strings and a-half per tael is equal to Tls. 12,255. The price may seem to be dearer than at Kirin or Moukden, but if allowance be made for the freight of saltpetre and sulphur, and the higher rate of wages ruling on the border, these rates are not higher than they should be. In view of the urgent need of ammunition the memorialist requests that the Board of War be directed to lose no time in reporting upon these estimates.

(3) The Governor of Kwei-chow reports that two military officials have surrendered their claim to pay due to them to the extent of Tls. 1,842; and in accordance with the regulation to that effect request that the money may be applied to purchase a literary degree and a clerkship in one of the Yünnan prefectures for a certain person named.

Nov. 19th.—(1) In obedience to a Decree calling for particulars of the action taken in Fuhkien to alleviate the distress caused, first by the floods, and subsequently by fires and a typhoon, the acting Governor-General and Governor report that, as regards the floods, officers were sent to all the afflicted districts to distribute grain, and in every way assist the poor people in setting themselves up again. Mention is made of a land slip which occurred at Hwa-fêng-ts'un, in the district of Ku-t'ien, when forty-three persons were engulfed in the mountain, whose bodies it was found impossible to recover. The crops promise well in nearly all the districts, the price of grain has fallen, and everything is quiet. In Foochow itself, sixteen relief stations were opened, at each of which from several hundred to over a thousand persons were fed every day. In addition to this, grain was distributed to the poor people, an adult receiving fifteen *shêng*, and a child seven and a-half. In this way, 4,043 persons in the Min district, and 9,419 in the Hou-kwan district, received rations of rice. Cotton clothes were issued to both sexes, and for every house that had fallen in, from two mace and a half to five mace was handed to the poor tenant to enable him to make repairs. To those who had taken up their abode on the city walls, and had no home to return to, the sum of four dollars was given for

house rent. The friendless dead were buried at government expense, and the sum of ten dollars was given to each of sixty-four families who had dead to bury, not to mention what the memorialists gave privately when visiting each house. After being washed out by the floods, the common people had still their manual labour to fall back upon, but with the destitute literati, the case was different; the officers of instruction were consequently directed to make private inquiries, and as a result, a *tan* of rice, two pieces of cloth, and one dollar was given to each of one hundred and nine graduates of the third degree, and four *tan* of rice, four pieces of cloth, and ten dollars to each of twenty-five graduates of the second degree. As much sickness was to be expected in consequence of the floods, dispensaries were opened both inside the city and out, where advice, prescriptions, and medicines were given gratuitously. At first several hundred patients were treated *per diem*, but by degrees the sickness subsided, and the number of cases is daily becoming smaller.—As regards the fires, from the nature of the construction of the houses conflagrations must be looked for several times a year. In the summer a fire broke out at Nan-t'ai, when some four hundred houses were destroyed, and again, in August, a fire in the city consumed six houses. It is not usual to give relief in cases of fires, but as the times were more than usually hard, the memorialist directed that the sufferers should be put on the same footing as the sufferers by the inundations. Persons of means were further urged to assist the burnt out inhabitants with loans, and all the houses have already been rebuilt.—The third portion of the memorial describes the effects of the typhoon of the 31st July last. The arsenal authorities sent out steamers, large and small, to search the coast, and owing to their efforts there was no loss of life or property. In the inner waters, however, much damage was caused to rafts and tea boats, and the second crop suffered seriously. Agents were sent to Amoy and Taiwan to buy rice, which was sold at reduced rates to all classes except the gentry, merchants, soldiers and official servants. Great damage was caused to bridges, post stations, and public buildings throughout the province, and a large outlay will be required to make the necessary repairs. On this account, and because it may be necessary to expend vast sums in relief should the crops turn out badly, it is requested that for a time the contributions made by

Fuh-kien to other provinces may cease, and when the present hard times shall have been tided over, arrears will be made good.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

(2) A supplementary memorial from the same official gives a list of further contributions to the fund for the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Fuhkien. The memorialist himself has subscribed \$2,000, and the Governor Ting Jih-ch'ang, \$1,000; while other officials of the province have contributed both money and rice, but the memorialist will not venture to ask for rewards in the above cases. Amongst other officials who have sent contributions are Li Chao-t'ang, the Customs Taotai at Tientsin, who has sent Tls. 2,000; Kung Yih-t'u, Taotai of the Têng-Lai-Ts'ing Circuit (Chefoo), Tls. 1,000; Fang-yao, Brigadier-General at Ch'ao-chow Fu in Kwangtung, Tls. 2,100; Fêng Tsün-kwang, Taotai of the Su-Sung-T'ai Circuit (Shanghai), rice, cloth, cotton clothes and medicine, to the value Tls. 5,000; Yeh Wên-lan, Taotai in Kwangtung, Tls. 2,000 from himself, and \$8,000 collected by him; Yeh T'ing-ch'un, expectant Taotai in Kwangtung, \$500 from himself, and \$4,000 collected by him. The above officials, whose broader sympathies were not to be confined by political boundaries, are deserving of encouragement, and will be recommended at a future day for rewards. As regards other officials and notables in the province who have made contributions, it is requested that, in accordance with the precedent set at Tientsin during the floods of 1871, they may be rewarded with merely honorary rank. In conclusion, the memorialist would correct an error in a previous report. It was 3,000 taels of silver, treasury weight and purity, not 3,000 taels of foreign silver, that Shen Pao-chên, Governor-General of the Liang Kiang, subscribed.

(3) The same high official reports that the embankment built by the people of the Min and Hou-kwan districts to protect their low lying lands from the mountain torrents have suffered by the late floods, and that their fields are covered with a sandy deposit. The same thing will happen next year unless the embankments be repaired, and it appears the better plan to put the banks in order once for all, instead of spending money in alleviating the distress which would result from the neglect of this work. In the district of Min the damage has been comparatively trifling, and the Prefect of Foochow has been directed to see to the repairs at once. In the Hou-kwan district

the banks have have burst in sixteen places, and the expense will be considerable. Strictly speaking, the expense should be borne by the people, but the country is in such distress since the floods, that the inhabitants are unequal to the task. The Prefect has been instructed to effect the necessary repairs, levying the regulation contributions from such proprietors protected by the embankment as are in a position to pay, and making good the deficit out of the public funds.

Nov. 20th.—(1) A Decree authorising the payment of Tls. 3,600 out of the interest fund of the Household Treasury for the purchase of wadded clothes for the poor of Peking.

(2) The acting-Governor of Hu-Kwang reports the result of an inquiry into a case in which an appeal had been lodged at Peking last year by a nun named Chang Show-i. The latter's story appears to have been a gross misrepresentation, for on inquiry the Governor-General ascertained the facts of the case to be as follows:—The nun Chang Show-i was an inmate of the Yuan Sheng convent in Han-yang, near Hankow. Yang Kwang-yuan was the superioress. The latter had made a good deal of money by practising the healing art, and had acquired considerable land and house property. In former days she had adopted a little foundling, a girl whom she named Fa-sheng, and subsequently had taken on a neophyte, a girl called Liu Show-che. An old acquaintance of the superioress, one Chang Yu-sin, with his brother Chang Lao-pa, were in the habit of going to the nunnery to make up accounts, and in this way they often saw Fa-sheng and Liu Show-che, though nothing improper ever passed between them. In the beginning of 1873, Fa-sheng having grown up to woman's estate, and being unwilling to take the vows, she was married to a man in Wu-ch'ang, a marriage certificate being duly drawn up. In the summer of the same year Liu Show-che, while mending a leak in an upper room, missed her footing and broke her leg. At her own wish she was taken to the foreign hospital by Chang Yu-sin, but the injury was so grave that she died there. Pressed by the foreigner to take away and bury the body, Chang Yu-sin informed the superioress, and collected 4,500 cash from the neighbouring shopkeepers, with which he bought a coffin and buried the deceased. Chang Show-i's suspicions were aroused, because when she went to look for the body she failed to find it, and in consequence of the accusations she lodged at the Han-yang Magistracy an

inquiry was held, and it was decreed that Chang Yu-sin should state where the body had been buried, and that the grave should for the future be in the keeping of the superioress. Chang Yu-sin was also directed to cease going to the nunnery. In the following September, Yang Kwang-yuan was called away one evening to give her professional services, and as she was returning home by moonlight, she made a false step, and fell in a ditch. She was lifted out by a man who happened to be passing, but all attempts to restore life were in vain. Chang Show-i at once sent word of the event to the deceased's mother, the woman Li Ch'en, and her brother, Yang Yi-koo. It was Chang Show-i's wish that the body should be disposed of by cremation, but to this the mother objected, and demanded that the money and clothes which the superioress had accumulated during life should be given up to defray the funeral expenses. Chang Show-i merely produced a box of clothes and some vestments. The mother finding that the clothes were all worn out and that there was no money, borrowed some from her friends, and was about to mortgage the temple and other property as security, when Chang Chow-i interposed. The mother, however, claiming that all this was the private property of the deceased superioress, was determined that if she could not raise money by mortgage, she would not at any rate leave the property in the possession of Chang Show-i, and accordingly she petitioned the Han-yang Magistrate that the land and buildings might be handed over to some charitable institution. Hereupon Chang Show-i sought the assistance of Chang Yu-sin, and on his declining to have anything to do with the matter, the woman laid a false accusation against Chang Show-i and others, charging them with having drowned Yang Kwang-yuan, and, in concert with her mother, ransacked her boxes and clothes. The Magistrate heard the case, and his judgment was that the property should all be given up to a charitable institution, and that Chang Show-i should return to her own home. She still declined to be satisfied, however, and successively appealed to the Prefect and Judicial Commissioner, and finally made up her mind to go to the capital. To ensure her case being attended to, by making it appear more serious, she added to her trumped-up charges, and accused Chang Yu-sin and Chang Lao-pa of frequently having had illicit intercourse with Fa-sheng, and of having inveigled Liu Show-che, whose prying they found inconvenient, into going to the foreign

hospital, where they compassed her death; and this done, with having kidnapped Fa-sheng away. She further stated that they had split open a wooden image for the sake of its precious contents, and finally charged the local authorities with indifference, and their underlings with corruption. The punishment prescribed by law for a person falsely charging another with a capital offence, is, where the crime is detected in time to save the life of the falsely accused, one hundred blows and banishment to 3,000 li. In the present instance, however, the nun Chang Show-i preferred false accusations merely for the sake of securing attention to her plaint; and in the course of the inquiry, moreover, she made a full confession of the truth. Under the circumstances therefore she may be allowed to purchase her liberty by payment of a fine, as the law directs. (For previous appeal on the above subject, see *Gazette* of 17th Sept., 1875.)

(3) The same high official calls attention to the case of a man named Sun Wei, whose father was killed by the rebels in Chênkiang in the year 1861. According to the regulation in force, his son applied for permission to purchase a degree for a cousin with the sum—in this case Tls. 100—to which the family of the deceased were entitled as indemnity money. The request was granted in 1865, and, over and above the indemnity money, the petitioner deposited Tls. 14 for difference of weight, and Tls. 2.2.2 for Board fees, but up to the present time the degree has not been conferred. As the person interested is preparing to take part in the next examinations, it is desirable that he should no longer be kept waiting, and the Governor-General requests that the certificate may be sent to Wu-ch'ang by express, in order that it may be placed in the hands of the proper person. The Tls. 14 have been placed to the credit of the Government to be accounted for next quarter, and the Tls. 2.2.2 Board fees will be sent up to Peking as soon as the opportunity of some official going up presents itself.

(4) A Memorial from the same states that he has placed K'ü T'ing-shao temporarily in charge of the prefecture of I-ch'ang in the absence of the Prefect Wang Hi-chên, who has been ordered to Peking for presentation at Court.

Nov. 21st.—No documents of importance.

Nov. 22nd.—(1) A Decree. At the instance of Fêng-shên, Military Governor of the Amur province, it is commanded that a tablet be placed in the Lung-hwang temple at Saghalin Hotun, the capital of

the province, as a votive offering to the presiding deity, who on numerous occasions of late years has granted the prayers offered up when the country was visited by floods or drought.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng (recently transferred from Shantung to the Governor-Generalship of Szechw'an) is granted permission to pay his respects at Court, and the Financial Commissioner Li Yüan-hwa is directed to assume provisional charge of the office of Governor of Shantung.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang requests that Chang Têh-luh, Brigadier-General of Kao-chow Fu, be directed to take up his post. He was appointed in 1871, but as his services were then much needed in Manchuria in operating against the mounted banditti, he was allowed to remain there until he could be spared. All is now quiet in Manchuria, and it is most necessary that he should repair to Kao-chow without further delay. [A Decree has already appeared directing this officer to proceed to his post.]

(4) Chêng Yao-siang, Brigadier-General of Yang-kiang, in Kwangtung, reports the termination of his cruise up and down the coast, where he found everything quiet.

(5) Chai Kwo-yen, Commander-in-Chief of Naval forces in Kwangtung, reports that P'eng-yü 彭玉, Acting Brigadier-General of Kieh-shih, will proceed on his tour of inspection up and down the coast on the first day of the seventh moon.

(6) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang forwards an application from a Colonel in Kwangsi, who requests that he may be reduced one step in rank in order that he may get an appointment in his own province, and remain to take care of his aged mother, now 80 years old, instead of being transferred to some other province, as would be necessary where he to retain the rank of *ts'an-tsiang*.—Referred to the Board of War by Rescript.

Nov. 23rd.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is taken up with a report of the proceedings had in a case where a woman had appealed in Peking against the unjust action of the authorities in Shengking, in dealing with the murderers of her husband. The case dates back to 1871, when a certain government clerk, the husband of the appellant in the case, died in prison in the district of Kwang-ning, in Manchuria. The result of the inquiry held at the time went to prove that the man had committed suicide by throwing himself in a well; but the woman maintained that, in trying to extort money from him, the people about

the prison had tortured him to death, and then thrown the body down a well to make it appear like a case of suicide. Certain irregularities in the proceedings brought the matter to Peking, and a Decree was issued appointing Kwang-show to proceed as Imperial Commissioner to look into the affair. This was in 1873, and as the woman persisted in maintaining that there had been foul play, the body was exhumed, and the expert brought from Peking proceeded to ascertain the cause of death. Water was poured into the skull, whereupon mud and sand trickled out. This made it very evident that it was during life that the body of the deceased had got under water. The woman could not endure to see the remains farther manipulated, and with her consent the coffin was once more interred. At the second inquiry, just concluded, the evidence of all the witnesses called was to the effect that the man committed suicide, and the woman herself acknowledged that her second appeal at Peking was made without sufficient evidence to substantiate her charges. The facts elicited by Kwang-show are thus corroborated by the Governor-General, who in summing up the case begs that the woman, guilty of preferring false charges though she be, may be leniently dealt with as it was her affection for her husband that led her to give ear to the stories about his having come to his death by foul means.

Nov. 24th.—(1) The Board of Works request that the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, may be directed to take steps for the repair of the temples erected in the two divisions of the city in honour of virtuous Manchu women, in order that the usual ceremonies may be performed.

(2) Kin-shun, Commander-in-Chief in Kansuh, reports the death from disease of an officer named Tsêng Pang-han, once an expectant Taotai, but afterwards degraded for not paying what he owed to the Hwai salt establishment. This official sold his property, and cleared off all arrears, and then volunteered for service in the army operating in Kansuh. Here he distinguished himself, and was employed on important service. Unfortunately he contracted a disease which carried him off; and in recognition of his merits it is requested that his former rank may be restored to him, and that he may be rewarded after the manner of deserving officers who die in service.—Referred to the Board of War.

(3) The Literary Chancellor of Hupeh, Wang Wên, whose term of office is about to expire, begs for three months' leave

immediately his successor arrives, in order that he may return to his native place, and attend upon his aged mother, who, he learns from home letters, is anxious to see her absent son.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) The Governor of Shantung represents the state of heartrending distress prevailing in the districts of I-tu, Lin-k'ü, Lin-tsze, Ch'ang-loh, Show-kwang, Lohan, and Wei. Relief will have to be administered until the spring if the people are to be kept from actually dying on the roadside, and it is proposed as the most practicable plan to open establishments on all sides where every person may receive one large bowl of gruel *per diem*. By dint of every effort it has been possible to scrape together between thirty and forty thousand taels from public sources, and the Governor proposes to invite all persons of means to contribute to the best of their ability. When the work of relief is over, the memorialist intends to submit a list of all persons who have subscribed, in order that rewards may be conferred after the precedent established during the Tientsin floods. It is also requested that all duty on grain may be remitted until the spring, in order that merchants may be encouraged to bring in supplies.

Nov. 25th.—(1) The Censor Wu Hung-ên states that during the years 1860 and 1861, his native town of T'ung-liang Hien, in Sze-ch'wan, was besieged by rebels on three successive occasions without success. On his return thither in 1872, he heard from the old residents that when the rebels were surrounding the city, banners and flags appeared on the walls in number like the trees of a forest. This undoubtedly points to Divine aid, and the Censor, as is the wont on such occasions, would request that the Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan be called on for a report, in order that a tablet may be presented to the God of War. (A Rescript calling for a report has already appeared.)

(2) Hu Jui-lan, Literary Chancellor of Chekiang, whose term of office is about to expire, asks for two months' leave, in order that he may visit his aged mother.—Granted.

Nov. 26th.—(1) Hu Kia-yü, an expectant *King Tang* of the 5th rank, memorialises with an effusion of gratitude for the Imperial bounty on receipt of the intelligence that his grandson, Hu Chêng-pih, has graduated as *Kü-jên*, 21st on the list, at the provincial examinations in Kiangsi. When the memorialist recalls the fact that it was only last Spring that he had occasion to express his thanks on

his son, Hu Siang-lin, having taken the *tsin-sze* degree at the Peking examinations, he is overwhelmed with feelings of unworthiness for so much distinction. All that he can do is to put forward redoubled efforts toward supporting as is due the literary honours now borne by three generations of the family. (N.B.—Hu Kia-yü is the official who was dismissed from his post as Censor in 1874, after being signally worsted in a bitter controversy on the taxation of Kiangsi with the then provincial Governor, Liu Kw'ên-yih.)

(2) Pao-ying, the assistant Resident at Kobdo, memorialises requesting sanction for the provision of 82 new felt tents for the accommodation of the force consisting of 377 officers and men stationed at that outpost. The tents, 109 in number, provided four years ago at a cost of Taels 1,090, are now worn out.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, requests permission to detain somewhat longer in the prefecture of Ning-kwoh Fu the Brigadier-General P'an Ting-lih, who, according to regulation, is at present bound to apply for leave to have audience at Peking. At the present moment, the southern districts of Anhwei, being inhabited by a mixed population of actual natives and immigrants from other quarters, and seditious movements being in progress on all sides on the part of the secret societies, General P'an has for some time been stationed at Ning-kwoh in command of a body of troops, and it is inexpedient at this juncture to introduce a stranger in his stead.—Granted by rescript.

Nov. 27th.—(1) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialise with reference to the three Intendancies of the region north of the Yangtze. The four prefectures of Hwai-an, Yang-chow, Sü-chow, and Hai-chow, were heretofore distributed under three Taotais with the titles respectively of Intendant of the Hwai-Yang, Hwai-Hai, and Sü-chow Circuit, having control over the affairs of the Canal (and Yellow River) as well as of the local administration. The Taotai of Hwai-yang had four of the districts of Hwai-an and the whole of Yang-chow Fu beneath his control, the remaining two districts of Hwai-an Fu being grouped with the Hai-chow prefecture under a separate Intendancy. In 1860, all the official posts connected with the southern part of the Canal having been abolished, two of the Intendancies were suppressed, and the four prefectures were grouped together under one Taotai. In 1864, the then

Governor-General, Tsêng Kwoh-fan, obtained sanction to the re-establishment of two Intendancies, one to assume control of the Hwai-Yang circuit, and the other to combine the prefectures of Sü-chow and Hai-chow. It is now found, however, that owing to the distance between the two last-named prefectural cities, there is a difficulty in maintaining proper efficiency of control. Not only is a period of something like ten days required for the transmission of despatches from one point to the other, owing to their remoteness from the line of post-roads, but great inconvenience is also experienced in the case of criminals the gravity of whose cases renders it necessary to send them from Hai-chow northwards to Sü-chow for trial before the Taotai, and then south again from Sü-chow to Nanking for final proceedings, by which means a distance of 300 miles is needlessly added to their journeyings. It is consequently proposed to restore Sü-chow Fu to its former position as a separate Intendancy, and to combine Hai-chow with the Hwai-Yang circuit.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Civil Office for consideration.

(2) Hwang Hwai-shên, a Supervising Censor, memorialises denouncing in unmeasured terms the conduct of Tai Ch'ao-tso, a military officer in Kwangtung, Colonel-commandant of the Shun-têh brigade, and head of the constabulary arrangements for seven districts near Canton. It is stated of him that at the different places at which he fixed his headquarters in 1873, brigandage on a large scale was the immediate consequence. In 1874 he established himself at a place called Lung-tsin, whereupon robberies took place and black mail was levied in open daylight at a place not half a mile distant, and several shops were plundered and burnt. He took no action upon the complaints presented to him by the notables, beyond compelling them to lodge amounts of money as rewards for the capture of the offenders, taking, however, no steps to effect this object. He is farther represented to have put some scores of persons to death of his own authority, in absolute defiance of the regulations with reference to the trial of prisoners by the superior courts, and to have had the remains interred off-hand. These are cases which are perfectly well known; what else may have happened without coming to light is beyond the reach of enquiry. In a separate memorial, another military officer named Hwang T'ien-yüan, in the same command, is accused of owning gambling houses, brothels, and opium shops, and of being the trainer of actors,—

charges which, it is observed, lie in general at the door of all military officials. —Referring to a Decree in which the high provincial authorities are commanded to exercise a rigid scrutiny with reference to the military officers within their jurisdictions, and to denounce offenders against the law without mercy, the notorious conduct of the two individuals above referred to is now denounced, with the expression of a conviction that the Governor-General and Governor would be certain to take rigorous measures against them. Still, the Censor apprehends that these men might contrive, by the influence they wield and the number of their confederates, to escape the punishment they deserve; and he consequently feels bound to lay the statements that have reached his ears before the Throne. (No rescript is appended to the above memorial, which appears to have been held back for nearly a year until the receipt of a rejoinder from Kwangtung, which appears in the following day's *Gazette*.)

(3) T'u Tsung-ying, the Governor of Kwangsi, reports the passage of an Annamese tribute mission for Peking across the frontier. A despatch had been respectfully forwarded by Yüan Fuh-she, the King of Yüeh-nan (Cochin-China), requesting that as the 3rd year of Kwang Sü (1877) is the period at which tribute should be forwarded, he might be informed of the date when envoys should pass the frontier. The late Governor having reported this to the Throne, a decree was received on the 28th April last, ordering the acting-Governor to send orders 令行 to the King aforesaid to despatch his envoys at the period to be determined by former precedent. The acting-Governor accordingly fixed the 1st day of the 8th moon (Sept. 18th), as the date at which the frontier pass should be opened, and wrote (*chao hwei*) to the King in question to take action in obedience. An expectant Taotai and a Department Magistrate were sent, with a petty civilian and a military officer, to meet the envoys at the Chên Nan frontier pass, and to escort them to the provincial capital. Report was in due course received from the Prefect of K'ai-p'ing Fu, that the tribute mission, the envoy at the head of which is named P'ei Wên-i, had passed the frontier on the 18th September. The mission might be expected to arrive at the provincial capital about the end of October, and after resting for a few days would be escorted on its farther progress in the

direction of Peking, in fulfilment of the earnest intentions of the Sacred Ruler to cherish tenderly the men from afar. Copies of the memorial and the address to the Throne which have been received from the King in question are transmitted, together with a copy of the despatch sent by the Governor in reply.

(4) Yüan Fuh-she 阮福時, your Majesty's servant, the King of Yüeh-nan, with his head bowed, with his head prostrate, respectfully memorialises to state that as the period for the sending of tribute is now reverently approached, he has with humble veneration prepared the despatch of his offerings. The kingdom ruled over by your Majesty's servant is indebted for its establishment to the Celestial dynasty, and has for generations past been enrolled among the subject nations. The rule having been fixed by superior decree that the tributary period should recur once in four years, this to be a settled ordinance in all perpetuity, offerings have from that time forward been sent, according to the prescribed ritual, as each period has been reached. Inasmuch as the period will arrive next year for the presentation of tribute, a despatch was sent in the first moon of the present year to the Governor of Kwangsi, requesting that he would vicariously make report in due official course to your Majesty; and a communication was subsequently received from him stating that the frontier pass would be opened on the 1st day of the 8th moon. Your servant, on receiving information of the exalted Imperial commands, humbly bowed his head to welcome their receipt. He humbly bethinks himself that, on the feudal tenures of the Chow dynasty having been established and extended far and wide, tranquillity and moral influence ensued as the result of this system; and that the assemblage of the vassal princes to acknowledge their dependence, in the Court of Hia, was the recognition of a perpetual ordinance. Having been so fortunate at the present period as to abide by the regulation in the despatch of tribute, all that your servant can look for is that the Celestial Court will deign to cast a glance upon the sincere expression of his reverent and obedient sentiments, thus enabling a subject kingdom to fulfil its earnest desire that the ties of kinship be cherished with due respect. Gazing from a distance toward the Celestial portals, in strict obedience to the forms prescribed, he now delivers the various articles of tribute due

for the year *ting ch'ow* to the officers of his court, P'ei Wên-i, Lin Hung, Li Ki, and others with them, to be transported to their destination, and he reverently begs their acceptance by the Imperial grace. An address accompanying the tribute is separately forwarded, and the present report of what has been undertaken is now submitted, to await the decision of the Sacred perceptions, in this reverent memorial.—Rescript, received by the Ministers of the Grand Council :—Perused.

(5) Address to the throne presented by the King of Yüeh-nan.—This is the document referred to in the foregoing memorial, and is merely a patchwork of fulsome complimentary expressions, to be read out on presentation of the tribute offerings.

Nov. 28th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from the Governor-General and Governor at Canton, with reference to the observations made by the Censor Hwang Hwai-shên on malpractices in the constabulary arrangements of the province of Kwangtung, and his denunciation of two military officers named Tai Ch'ao-tso and Hwang T'ien-yüan (see yesterday's *Gazette*). The Censor's memorials were referred by a decree dated 22nd January, 1876, to the provincial authorities for report; and his allegations respecting abuses in the matter of the apprehension and trial of criminals in the province are met with a general denial. Touching his assertion that persons of the criminal class had been allowed to take out flags and official badges for employment in the Maritime Customs' preventive service, and commit piratical depredations under one pretext or another, it is stated that a communication had been addressed to the late Superintendent of Customs, Wên T'ien, who had replied to the following effect :—"The junks of the preventive service having been destroyed by the typhoon of September, 1874, report was made to the Throne of the intention to purchase four vessels for the service. Three junks were procured hereupon, which were named respectively the *T'ung Shêng*, *T'ung Hai*, and *T'ung Tsing*. The flags carried by these craft had characters inscribed upon them declaring them to be preventive cruisers of the Maritime Customs of Kwangtung, and the uniforms supplied were issued for the actual number of the searchers and crew on board. No such abuse occurred as that of [flags and uniforms] being improperly taken out, neither have any complaints been lodged respecting piratical depredations on the part of the headmen in charge, the searchers,

or the crew. It is within the limits of possibility that fraudulent imitations of the flags and uniforms employed have been made use of by lawless persons."—With reference to the case of Colonel Tai, the charges brought against him are absolutely denied, and the absence of any proof of the Censor's allegations is commented upon. A certificate of his high character, obtained from the provincial Admiral, is quoted. Captain Hwang T'ien-yüan, who is accused of harbouring prostitutes, keeping gambling houses, &c., is found to have been slack in the performance of his duty in effecting the arrest of certain noted criminals whom he was commissioned to apprehend, and the Censor's charges against him are ascertained to be well founded. He died on the 23rd of June last, but it is requested that this fact may not stand in the way of the infliction of the punishment he has deserved, in order that a salutary warning may be conveyed to others.—Rescript: Let Tai Ch'ao-tso be exempted from further proceedings. Let Hwang T'ien-yüan be stripped of official rank; and let stringent measures be taken for the capture of the criminals who remain at large, whom it must be looked upon as essential to bring to justice. Let the proper Boards take note.

Nov. 29th.—(1) The Censor Têng K'ing-ling memorialises exposing his views on certain points connected with the administration of the criminal law, in regard to which, in his opinion, a reform of practice is urgently required. His observations are given categorically in the following order :—

1. Civil and military officials condemned to banishment should be sent forward to their allotted destinations at the time fixed by law. It appears that this rule is in many cases neglected, so that officials who have been sentenced to banishment are often allowed to remain untransported for years together. It is requested that the Board of Punishments may be called upon to enforce the regulations in this respect.

2. The rehearing of cases referred back from Peking to the provinces on appeal should not be conducted before the officials whose original judgment has been appealed against. It is pointed out that this practice opens the door to acts of injustice, and that it is, in fact, absurd to suppose that Magistrates will reverse their own decisions. The recent affair in the T'ung-hiang district in Sze-ch'wan (see *Gazettes* of October, 29th and 30th) is referred to as a case in point.

3. Scrutiny should be made as to the antecedent reports on record respecting

military officials when charged with criminal acts.

4. Responsibility should be enforced in cases where sentences of an irregular character are found on revision to have been inflicted on prisoners under ordinary sentence of a capital character.

A rescript, referring the memorial for consideration by the Board of Punishments, has already appeared.

(5) The Censor Hwang Hwai-shên memorialises on the faulty condition of the constabulary service in Kwangtung, where crime of a violent character is exceedingly rife. He dwells upon the practice locally known as *ta tan*—that is, of levying black-mail under threat of robbery to be committed, unless a demand for a payment of money sent before-hand be complied with by a specified time; and he asserts that members of the criminal class had committed depredations of a piratical character whilst sailing in the cruisers of the Maritime Customs of Canton, named the *T'ung Chêng*, *T'ung Hai*, and *T'ung Shêng*, under pretence of searching for smugglers, and under cover of flags and uniforms which they had improperly been allowed to take out. (See *Gazette* of yesterday.)

Nov. 30th.—(Court Circular). Ho King, the newly appointed Governor-General of Min-chêh, had audience of leave.

(1) A decree, ordering the vacant post of Prefect of Yünnan Fu to be filled up by selection on the part of the high provincial authorities from among the prefects now serving in the province. The vacancy thus entailed is to be filled by the appointment of Li Yen-show 李衍綬.

(2) A decree, approving, with some modification, the sentences proposed by the Board of Civil Office in the case of certain civilian functionaries of the Province of Fuhkien, including the late Governor-General Li Ho-nien, for neglect, in his case, to denounce the shortcomings of his subordinates. The Board has proposed that the late Governor-General be degraded three steps and removed from his present to another employ. Instead of this, he is degraded three steps, but left in office.

(3) The Board of Punishments reports upon the trial of a servant of one of the Censors for causing the death of a certain individual whom he had placed in durance for purposes of extortion. The case arose out of a claim for rent owing, and the main charge is disposed of as unfounded; though for irregular conduct both the accused person and his late employer, the

Censor, are adjudged to have rendered themselves liable to punishment.

Dec. 1st.—(1) The acting Governor-General of Hu-kwang represents that it is impossible to carry out the Board of Revenue's wishes as regards the transmission of grain to Peking. Since the rebellion, the grain tax has been paid in money, and in order to remit the tax in kind, as is now proposed, it would be necessary to rebuild the granaries throughout the province, and construct new grain vessels at an enormous cost. To send the grain by steamer to Shanghai for transshipment would entail great expense, and if that were contemplated it would be better to buy the rice on the spot. It would be a great hardship on the people to revert suddenly to a system which was superseded many years ago, and especially at the present moment when the province is suffering from bad crops. It is requested that the Board be directed to reconsider the matter, and meanwhile for the present year the grain contribution will be commuted by a money payment as heretofore.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang, the Governor-General of the Grain Transport, and the Governor of Kiangsu, memorialise requesting that the grain contribution from the districts north of the Yangtze may for a few years be sent by sea, until the Grand Canal is again clear throughout. They represent that the grain supply from Kiangsu and Chekiang, as well as the rice purchased by the province of Hupeh for transmission to Peking, is all sent by sea; it is only some 100,000 piculs from the country north of the Yangtze that goes by canal, and this is insisted on merely to prevent the system from falling into desuetude. The memorialists also find fault with the present plan of supplying the canal with water from the Yellow River. The bed of the canal is on a level with the surface of the river, and in order to bring in a supply of water, it has been proposed to dig a canal 9,000 feet in length, 30 feet broad, and 3 feet deep. But, ask the memorialists, how is it that the bed of the canal rises? and the answer they give is that it is owing to the silt caused by the waters let in from the Yellow River. In a few years more, if this plan be persisted in, the bed of the Grand Canal will be higher than the banks, and its overflowing waters will bring destruction on the country north and south. For one day that water is let in to float the junks, a month is required to clear away the deposit. As regards the injury the cessation of grain transport will cause to the agriculturists and local trade, the memorialists have no desire

that the water system should suffer because grain is transported by sea. The Hwai districts have funds at their disposal which can be employed in doing what may be necessary; but so far as the transport of grain is concerned, it is considered better to try the sea route for some years, when, if the inland water communication be practicable, the former method will again be recommended.—Referred to the Board of Revenue for consideration.

(3) The Censor Wên-ming requests that the sum of Tls. 3,600 may be granted as usual out of the funds of the Imperial Household for the purchase of wadded clothes for the poor of Peking. (Already granted by Decree.)

Dec. 2nd.—The Governor of Honan reports the re-hearing of a case in which appeal had been made at Peking. Two men quarrelled about letting off fireworks, and in a fight with knives which ensued, one of the men was killed. His assailant was duly condemned to death, but the uncle of the murdered man suspecting that the prime mover had kept behind the scenes, laid a charge at the magistracy. The charge was dismissed, and the uncle returned home, to die, as it happened, within three days. His nephew, the brother of the murdered man, then started for Peking to make the same charges, with additions. For proceeding direct to Peking without first appealing to the authorities of his province, he has committed an offence for which the penalty is fifty blows. The charges lodged by him were false, but as they had originally been made by the uncle now dead, this offence may be passed over.

(2) The same official gives the names of six military officers whose dismissal or retirement he would urge. Now that military operations have ceased in the province, it is desirable to clear the service of any officers who, on the expiration of their term, are found to be incompetent or in bad health.—Granted.

(3) The same official requests that the District Magistrate of Ch'ê-chêng may be deprived of his button for having failed to arrest within the prescribed time some of the criminals implicated in the murder of a family of ten persons.—Granted.

(4) The two Censors charged to supervise the transport of rice to the capital, request that full force may be given to the regulation which provides that the agents and cart owners engaged in bringing the Government rice from Tungchow shall be made to pay fifty per cent. over the market price for any rice short delivered. Owing to

the laxity with which this rule has been enforced, men of the lowest class are hired to bring up the grain, and the natural consequence is every possible kind of dishonesty.

(5) The same Censors request that the grain Commissioner of Anhwei may be handed to the Board for the award of a penalty. His offence is that the rice forwarded by the Grand Canal was late in arriving. By regulation, the rice from Kiang-peh should be delivered by the beginning of May, but this year the last consignment was as late as the beginning of November. Difficulties, it is allowed, were met with in the Canal and Yellow River, but this year the delay has exceeded that of former years, and the provinces must be made to know that the regulation is not a dead letter.—Rescript in assent already published.

Dec. 3rd.—Jui-lien, Military Governor of Jeh-ho, memorialises with reference to the condition of the Imperial Hunting Ground (to the north of the Great Wall), the object of the existence of which, he observes, is to enable the military forces of the State to be inured to the art of warfare, and to afford an area within which the Sovereign's vassals may be arrayed under the Imperial sway. An institution upon which successive rulers have bestowed so much careful attention should not be allowed to sink into decay; but, in the early years of the reign of T'ung Che (about fourteen years ago), the then Military Governor, Jui-lin, was misled by bad advice into allowing the lands of the Hunting Ground to be brought under cultivation. His successor, K'i-k'ing, farther encouraged this mistaken policy, with most baneful results; and the resolution firmly adopted by a later incumbent of the office, K'u-k'êh-ki-t'ai, to restore the ancient system, was abandoned before long. The cause of this state of affairs is that employment was given to dishonest persons, but also that those who inaugurated the proposals in question lost sight of the great principles involved, in view of a trifling gain to be obtained. The present memorialist has made a personal inspection of the locality, and has already presented a general report on the state of affairs. Irretrievable on the whole though the condition of the question may be, he is nevertheless anxious to contribute, if it be in only an infinitesimal degree, toward a measure of reform; and he consequently submits a series of proposals with this end in view. Of the 72 *wei* or parks (enclosures) into which the Hunting Ground is mapped out, 31 have already been surveyed and

thrown open to cultivators. With these it is thought impossible now to interfere; and all that can be done is to impose stringent orders to prevent encroachment upon the wilds of the remaining 41 divisions. The Hunting Ground is about 500 miles (1,400 *li*) in extent, and, owing to its wide area, the authority exercised over it by the officials who are at present invested with control over different sections of the country, to wit, the Prefect of Ch'êng-têh Fu, the Magistrate of P'ing-ts'üan Chow, and two other District Magistrates, is almost nominal. It is now proposed that a special Sub-Prefect shall be appointed to control the revenue and police administration of the Hunting Ground alone. It is farther proposed that, with reference to the 180,000 *mow* of land under cultivation, which have lately been measured, the squatters now in possession shall be required to pay regular land-tax from the beginning of next year; and that whilst the area in excess of their original squatter-titles which they are now found to be possessed of, varying from upwards of 1,000 *mow* in some cases to smaller amounts, shall be added to the register, no allowance shall be made for such deficiencies as may be alleged in other cases, on the ground that in all probability fraud has been perpetrated in these instances.

Dec. 4th.—(1) The office of Gendarmerie returns thanks for the gratuity of one month's extra pay to the Peking garrison.

(2) A Decree. As a special favour Ho Show-tsz'e, junior President of the Censorate, and Yih-Kwei, Lieutenant-General of the Bordered White Banner, are permitted to remain mounted within the Forbidden City.

(3) The Military Governor and Lieutenant-General of the province of Kirin report the capture of a gang of burglars who in October last broke into a pawnshop in the suburbs of Kirin, wounding some of the inmates, and carrying off a considerable amount of plunder. It is requested that the Imperial warrant may be issued in order that the six criminals now in custody may be publicly executed.

(4) A memorial from the same reports the recapture of a criminal under sentence of death, who had succeeded in making his escape while the prison watch was asleep. The Governor of the prison and the warders on duty explained that the flight took place while they were asleep, and the prisoner himself declared that there was no previous understanding between himself and his keepers. Under these circumstances the law decrees that if the prisoner be recaptured within 100

days, the Governor of the prison shall merely be stript of his rank, and that the warders shall escape punishment. The award of penalties has been made accordingly.

Dec. 5th.—(1) The Military Governor of Tsi-tsi-har submits for approval the sentences passed in a case (heretofore reported) where a person bearing an hereditary title had been guilty of adultery with the wife of a private person. According to the depositions taken at the trial, the offender, named Lien-sheng, had become acquainted with a man named Wang, who invited him to his house and allowed his wife to be present when the visitor was there. Criminal intimacy between the two was the result, but the husband, who had borrowed money of Lien-sheng, winked at the offence though frequently repeated. It was not until he one day quarrelled with Lien-sheng that he laid an accusation against him. Lien-sheng is sentenced to be strip-ped of his rank, and condemned to receive 100 blows; the husband, for conniving at the offence, receives 90 blows; and the wife is sentenced to be cangued for a month, and receive 100 blows—a penalty, however, which she is permitted by law to commute for a money payment.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, late Governor of Shantung, and recently appointed Governor-General of Szechw'an, requests permission to come to Peking before proceeding to his new post, in order that he may receive His Majesty's instructions prior to assuming such a responsible position. If his request be granted, he proposes leaving Li Yuan-wha, the Financial Commissioner, in charge, pending the arrival of Wen-keh, his successor.—Granted by rescript.

(3) Chih-kang, Resident at Kurun (Urga), reports that the sum of Tls. 77,000, which the provinces of Shansi, Shantung, and Honan were directed to remit to Urga for the payment of sums due to T'u-ch'e-ho-pi and other places, is now no longer necessary. At a durbar of Mongolian princes and nobles held at Urga, the memorialist mentioned how urgently funds were needed for the Imperial Mausolea, and for the campaign on the western frontier, and suggested to the assembled nobles the desirability of foregoing the payment of the sums due, as some return for Imperial favours. They, with true patriotism, agreed to wipe off the debt, and accordingly the memorialist prays that the sums due from the provinces aforesaid may be applied to some other public use.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(4) The Military Governor of Tsi-tsi-har recommends for rewards certain officials who exerted themselves in obtaining contributions of horses when an order was given in June, 1875, to raise a force of 4,000 Si-tan (reserve soldiery), and 2,000 horses, as part of the arrangements decided upon by the Commission which sat to organise measures for the defence of the coast. (See *Gazette* of May 16th.) The officers detailed for the purpose, with a patriotic appreciation of the critical position, did not spare themselves in their efforts to procure the horses, but regardless of distance and discomfort, set off in every direction to invite contributions, with the result that in less than three months the full number was procured.

(5) The same official, at the request of the population of Tsi-tsi-har, requests His Majesty to present a tablet to the Lung-wang temple in the city of Sagalien. The presiding deity has never failed to answer the prayers offered up in times of tribulation. An appeal to it changes a drought into a life-giving shower, or subdues the raging waters. These marks of divine intervention, the memorialist has experienced himself during the last two years. (The request has already been granted.)

Dec. 6th.—(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the completion of certain works of canalisation undertaken near Tientsin at the request and under the supervision of the local notables, who have defrayed the cost of the works as a means of affording relief to the distressed and unemployed population. A canal has been dug, starting from the Yang Fên Kiang, at one extremity of the Shêng Fang river, running eastward to T'ieh-t'ow in the Tientsin district, and communicating with the lower course of the Peiho (properly called, below Tientsin, the Hai-ho, or Sea river.) The depth of this new channel is from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 Chinese feet, and its surface width from 65 to 100 feet, with a breadth at the bottom of 30 feet. A solid embankment, 60 feet wide at the base, has been constructed on the north bank to guard against inundation. Another canal has been excavated, running southward from Li Kia Ch'ang, on the Yung-ting river, extending to T'ieh-t'ow. Its depth is from 4 to 6 feet, by a width of from 32 to 44 feet, similarly protected with an embankment, its object being to drain off a portion of the waters of the Yung-ting river. The total length of work excavated is upwards of 5,740 *chang* (equal to about 26,750 English yards); in addition to which 13,300 *chang* of embankment in

different places have been raised to a height of 8 or 9 feet, with a surface width of 2 *chang*, and a width at base of 6 *chang*. Willows have been planted upon the slopes in order to furnish means of protecting the face of the works against flood. The labour that has been carried out has been extremely serviceable in providing employment for the sufferers by the recent drought. Honours will be requested for the notables who have contributed the funds employed; and meanwhile rewards are solicited for the military officers employed in the work of superintendence.—Granted by rescript.

(2) Li Hung-chang farther requests the issue of an Imperial tablet to be added to those granted by his Majesty's predecessors, which are suspended in the Temple of the White Dragon Pool (Peh Lung T'an) in the district of Mi-yün in north-eastern Chihli, at which, in times of drought, prayers are always offered up by special Commissioners. The temple having been reported this year in a ruinous condition, Li Hung-chang was commanded in May last to cause repairs to be executed; and this has now been done, at the cost of the provincial Exchequer, to the amount of Taels 5,071.9.5.7.4.1.8.—Granted by previous rescript.

Dec. 7th.—(1) A decree is issued in answer to a memorial from the Superintendents of the Imperial Equipage Department, calling upon the Financial Commissioner of Chihli to pay over at once the amount of Taels 20,750 due for the current year to the department from land-rents in the province, and furthermore to collect and pay over the arrears that are outstanding.

(2) A decree permitting Ts'ung-li (a former Hoppo at Canton), at present deputy Military Governor at Shan-hai Kwan, to resign his office on the ground of ill health.

(3) Jui-lien, deputy Military Governor at Jehho, reports the proceedings taken to adjudicate a dispute between the nobles of the Eastern tribe of Chaluth Mongols, and the widow of the Prince of the tribe, with reference to the adoption of an heir. This case, long pending, had been referred by Decree in January last for settlement at Jehho, after appeal to Peking; and on the trial that has now been held the accusers have acknowledged the falsity of the charges advanced, and have besought that the case may be dismissed. They withdraw their accusation of improper conduct against the widow, Yen-ts'ing. Penalties of bastinadoing and banishment have been inflicted upon the false accusers. The

widow is enjoined to bring up the heir she has adopted, a minor, with all due care, in order to fit him for the duties of his station. The finding and sentences, submitted in this memorial, are referred by rescript to the Mongolian Superintendency for consideration.

(4) Jui-lien further memorialises with reference to the lands of the Hunting Ground (see *Gazette* of 3rd inst.) He has discovered that some years ago a certain leaseholder of lands allowed to be occupied for cultivation, named Li Shêng, was permitted to exchange a tract of barren soil in one district for valuable land elsewhere, which should not have been ceded for agricultural purposes. It farther appears that the man Li Shêng was simply a servant in the employ of Jui-lin, the former Military Governor (afterwards Governor-General at Canton), and that the real owner of the land registered in his name is Hwai-t'a-pu, Jui-lin's son, who is an expectant of office at Peking. It is submitted that for conduct so reprehensible and open to the criticism it has provoked as this, the land and houses upon it should be sequestered and confiscated.—Granted by rescript.

Dec. 8th.—(1) A Decree. Ts'ung-shih, to whom We lately granted a congé of two months, makes now a farther entreaty, in a memorial this day received, for leave to resign his office, on the ground that his illness is becoming daily more severe. We ordain that he need not vacate his post, but that he devote himself in repose to the restoration of his health. Let Ch'ung-how assume provisional charge of the office of Military Governor of Shêng-king and joint-Governor of the province of Fêng-t'ien.

(2) A Decree. Let King-yü (at present Governor of the province of Fêng-t'ien) return to Peking and await other employment. Let En-fuh (at present Taotai of Fêng-t'ien) succeed to the post of Governor of Fêng-t'ien.

(3) A Decree. Let Siang-kêng succeed to the post of deputy Military Governor at Shan Hai Kwan.

(4) The Governor-General and Governor at Canton report the regulations they have put in force toward the execution of the instructions recently issued from Peking, with a view to limiting to one-tenth of the total number of substantive district offices the posts in which, at any time, "acting" appointments are to be held. The system thus prescribed, which is laid down with a view to secure permanency and local experience to the functionaries in charge of district offices, is to be carried out so far as local circumstances admit.

(5) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorialises with reference to Brigadier-General Niu She-han 牛師韓, lately appointed to the Kwei-têh command in Honan, who was some time ago retained for special service, at the memorialist's request, in connection with the army of maritime defence at Tientsin. Foreign affairs having now assumed, in the main, a tranquil aspect, and the presence of an officer so efficient and experienced as Niu She-han being urgently required at his new command, where drought and scarcity have been severely felt, he has directed the Brigadier-General to visit Peking for audience and then to proceed to his new post.

Dec. 9th.—(1) A decree appointing Sung-lin 松林 to the post of Taotai of Fêng-t'ien.

(2) A decree appointing Ju-shan 如山 to the post of Superintendent of the Salt Administration at Tientsin (Ch'ang Lu division.)

(3) A decree expressing the Imperial regret on the decease of Pa-yang-ah, Tartar General at King-chow in Hupeh. The usual honours are bestowed.

(4) The Governor of Shensi and the Tartar General of Si-an Fu memorialise with reference to the stud reserve or breeding ground 馬廠 attached to the Manchu garrison of Si-an Fu, anciently covering an extent of 96,000 *mow* (or about 16,000 acres) of land situated in four districts to the westward of the provincial capital. In 1775, it was arranged, on the application of the then high authorities, that 48,000 *mow* should be retained in use as a stud reserve, and the remaining half of the area be handed over to the district authorities to be let on leases and made subject to regular taxation. The revenue thus obtained was to be remitted to the Manchu garrison to form a fund from which pensions for widows and orphans and the expenses incurred by the soldiery in the annual artillery practice, stud keeping, and the purchase of horses, should be defrayed. According to the Regulations of the Board of Revenue, the rental to be levied on all but a small portion of the land was fixed at one *mace* per *mow*, the *tael* being taken at the rate of 1,000 standard *cash*. Since the Nien Fei and Mahomedan rebellions, however, the rental has fallen largely into arrear, and means have been wanting to meet the expenditure which should be defrayed from this source. A survey of the lands in question has consequently been

instituted, and it is found that upwards of 6,000 *mow* of the land heretofore under tillage have been swept away by the river Wei. The remainder, lying on either side of the river, is exposed to similar danger through the tendency which has been shewn of late years to a shifting of the channel northwards. There are, on the south bank, 22,935 *mow* of new-made land, forming luxuriant meadows, which it is now proposed to convert into grazing grounds, and to devote the land lying waste in the remainder of the area to leaseholds for tillage. This would extend to a total of 18,970 *mow*, the revenue to be derived from which would be appropriated to the same uses as heretofore.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Revenue for consideration.

(5) The Governor of Kiangsi reports the measures adopted toward meeting a deficiency in the revenue available for the issue of provincial salaries (*yang lien* or “anti-extortion” allowance.) The amount required for actual disbursement to the civil and military officials of the province, under this head, is Tls. 167,733, beside the cost of the sacrifices at the Confucian Temples, the allowances to the Boards at Peking, and the salary of the Director General of the Grain Transport, forming with the above a grand total of Tls. 205,980. The sum that was levied, however, in 1875, under the head of *hao sien* or “waste and surplus allowance,” in addition to the regular grain tax, upon which the above payments are by regulation chargeable, amounted to no more than Tls. 168,758, after exemptions granted on the score of floods, etc., so that a considerable deficit remains. This has been met by a draught upon the reserve fund 閒款 which, according to the Board of Revenue’s regulation, is set apart for the purpose of meeting such an emergency.

Dec. 10th.—(1) A Decree. The Duke, Continuator of the Sage, K’ung Siang-k’o, having now departed this life, let the proper office consult the regulations with regard to the posthumous honours that should be conferred, and make report to us. (N.B. The *Yen Shêng K’ung* 衍聖公 or alleged lineal descendant of Confucius, bearing the hereditary title of “duke,” whose death is referred to above, was aged about 28. For an account of a visit paid to him see the Rev. Alex. Williamson’s *Journeys in North-China*, Vol II, p. 258.)

(2) A decree appointing Hu Yü-kùn 胡毓筠 to the post of Grain Intendant of Chênkiang.

(3) A decree appointing Kwoh-leh-min—at present Manchu Lieutenant-general of Canton—to the post of Manchu General at King-chow Fu.

(4) Pa-yang-ha (lately deceased), Manchu General at King-chow, and his two lieutenants, memorialise on receipt of a Council despatch forwarding copy of a decree issued on the 15th September, upon a memorial presented by a Manchu high officer at Peking, who has requested that picked men of the Manchu forces in the provinces may be organised for drill at their respective garrisons. Observations are submitted categorically in reply. The original memorial proposes that a body of 600 foot soldiers shall constitute a *ying* or battalion, to be divided into six *cha-la* 札蘭 or companies, three of which should form the line 迎擊, three the reserve 冲锋伏隊, and one the body guard. This plan is applauded as excellent. The General proceeds to observe, however, that from the time of his entry upon his present command, he has conducted spring and autumn drills according to the tactics issued by the Board of War, and has moreover introduced manoeuvres of his own devising. The Manchu and Mongol sedentary garrison of Kingchow is divided into 56 *cha-la*, of 18 or 19 men each, and 1,000 men constitute a *ying* or battalion, with 7 *cha-la* to the *tsü* or company. In each *cha-la* there are one standard-bearer, 10 matchlock men, 4 gingal men, and three spear men. The body guard of one hundred strong comprises the artillerists for four portable calivers, and two squads of 40 men each armed respectively with spears and long-handled glaives. This is a system which, for any form of attack or defence, is applicable to an army of no matter how many thousands or tens of thousands strong. With reference to the observation that has been made as to the necessity for proficiency in drill, which, it is admitted, is a prime essential toward the handling of troops, the memorialists point out that the Manchu soldiery are in this respect different from the irregulars; that, from his youth upwards, every man is familiar with the banner and the company to which he belongs. Pa-yang-ha has been accustomed to assign to each banner of his force its special place in battle, so that the Yellow and Bordered Yellow would always be in the van, the Blue and Bordered Blue form the second line, the White and Bordered White attack the enemy on the left, and so forth. He

does not think it necessary to introduce any new nomenclature into the organisation. As regards cavalry, he believes that the raising of an efficient force may best be left to the Military Governors of Kirin and the Amur; whilst, with reference to the substitution of fire-arms on the foreign pattern for matchlocks and gingals, his former experience during the rebellion has sufficed to shew him how greatly superior the foreign weapon is to the existing fire-arm, which is so frequently rendered useless by wind or rain. The proverb says: It is cruelty to the soldier to give him a weapon which is not serviceable against the enemy; and it has long been in contemplation to arm the garrison with improved weapons, but funds for this purpose have not been forthcoming. It is prayed that orders may be given to the Board of Revenue to take this subject into consideration.

Dec. 11th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets on receipt of intelligence of the death of Ts'ung-shih, President of the Board of Punishments, acting Military Governor of Shêng-king. His former services, first as having gained preferment to a metropolitan office after attaining the Hanlin degree, next as Resident in Thibet, and afterwards as Manchu General and acting Governor-General of Szech'wan, are recounted, and his decease, at the very moment when his recovery from the illness he has lately reported was looked for, is a cause of profound sorrow in the Imperial mind. Posthumous honours are accorded; permission is given to convey his remains to Peking, in order that the funeral ceremonies may be conducted within the city; and the decree of *Kü-jên* is conferred upon his grandson King-hien. (Note.—Ts'ung-shih died at Moukden on the 4th December.)

(2) A decree commanding K'i-yüan to remain in charge of the office of Military Governor at Moukden until the arrival of Ch'ung-how to assume provisionally the duties of the post, as ordered by the decree lately issued.

(3) A Decree. Let Li Hung-tsao 李鴻藻, President of the Board of Works, and King-lien 景廉, senior President of the Court of the Censorate, do duty as members of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. (N.B. — The two high officials above-named are the two junior members of the Grand Council of State, the three Senior members of which, viz., the Prince of Kung and the Grand Secretaries Pao-yün and Shên Kwei-fên, have long been members of the Yamên.)

(4) A decree granting an allowance of 50 Taels per mensem for the next three months from the Household Treasury, to provide fuel during the inclement season now approaching for the staff of officials who are labouring at the preparation of the Veritable Record or Archives of the late reign.

(5) A decree appointing Ki-ho 吉和 to the post of Manchu Lieutenant-general (for the Chinese-Manchu Banners) at Canton.

(6) The high authorities of Yünnan memorialise requesting leave to retire from the service, on the score of ill-health, on behalf of the Taotai Ch'ên Si-chên, incumbent of the Western Intendancy of the province, and likewise on behalf of Kwang-jun, Prefect of Tung-ch'wan Fu. The services of the Taotai Ch'ên in the West of Yünnan, including his participation in the recent campaign for the recapture of T'êng-yüeh, are recounted, and the applications made by these officers are supported.—Granted by rescript.

Dec. 12th.—(1-3) Decrees making the following appointments:—Kwei-ts'ing to be transferred to fill the post of Vice-President of the Granaries, and to be succeeded as junior Vice-President of the Board of Works by Teh-ch'un. The present junior Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency, Lin-shu, to succeed Teh-ch'un in the senior post; and Kwei-ts'üan to be appointed as Lin-shu's successor.—In the absence of Ch'unghow, whilst acting as Military Governor of Shêngking, Ch'ang-sü to act as senior Vice-President of the Board of War.—Tsao-pao 早保 to be transferred from the Mongolian Superintendency to the Presidentship of the Board of Punishments; Ch'a-hang-ah to become his successor; Mien-i to become senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, and Ts'üan-k'ing to be appointed his successor as junior Vice-President of the same Board.

(4) A decree transferring Jui-lien, deputy Military Governor at Jeh-ho, to the post of deputy Military Governor at Ch'a-har (Inner Mongolia), Yen-hü (late Vice-President of the Granaries) becoming his successor. King-ch'un is transferred from Ch'a-har to the Military Governorship of Sui-yüan Ch'êng.

(5-6) The Governor of Shantung, in forwarding a report of the total amounts collected by the Custom-houses at Lin-ts'ing Chow on behalf of the Board of Works and the Board of Revenue, endorses the plea of the Department Magistrate in

extenuation of the falling-off shewn in the accounts. The Revenue collected upon timber and salt on behalf of the Board of Works amounted to Tls. 4,996.8, shewing a deficiency on the regulation amount of Tls. 1,525. The total amount collected for the Board of Revenue was Tls. 45,940.7, shewing a deficit of Tls. 2,435. The causes of the falling-off in revenue are explained, in the same terms as last year (see *Gazette* of 20th November, 1875,) as arising from the diversion of trade and navigation from the rivers Wên and Wei through the silting-up of their channels since the change in the course of the Yellow River—the shipment of southern produce by steamer from Hankow, and the pressure of the *lekin* collectorates on the upper course of the river, which tend to drive away trade. It is prayed that the exemption which has been granted, to the extent of 4/10ths of the regulation amount of duty, may be farther extended.—Referred for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

Dec. 13th.—(1) A decree sanctioning the proposals for exemption from land-tax for the current year in K'ai-chow and others of the southern districts of Chihli, which have suffered from the recent drought. The ordinance now issued is to be placarded as an Imperial manifesto throughout the region concerned.

(2) A decree making the following appointments:—Yung-ts'üan (at present Military Governor of I-li) is commanded to repair to Peking and there discharge his duties in the public service. Kin Shun 金順 (at present Lieutenant-General of Urumtsi and commander of a part of the army operating in that neighbourhood) is appointed Military Governor of the I-li region. Ying-han (late Governor-General of the Two Kwang) is appointed to act as Lieutenant-General of Urumtsi, and the button of the second rank is conferred upon him. Tu-ka-rh is invested with the brevet rank of Manchu Lieutenant-General (*tu-t'ung*), and is appointed to act as Assistant-Resident at Uliasutai. The post of deputy Lieutenant-General at Ch'aharh, which he vacates, is to be filled by Kw'eich'ang. Ying-han is ordered to hasten to his post by the regulation post-relays. Yung-ts'üan is to repair to Peking on being relieved by his successor, Kin-shun.

(3) The Governor of Hupeh reports the expenditure incurred in that province in the purchase and transmission to Peking of the grain supply for the year 1875, now completed. The amount of rice sent forward, of the *ts'ao* 漕 and *shan* 利

qualities, was 30,000 piculs as the principal amount, with 2,400 piculs as waste allowance on board ship, and 517 piculs as ration allowance for the lighters employed in transshipment from Tientsin. The total expenditure has been Tls. 77,356.1.2.5, making the cost of the rice Tls. 2.3.5 per picul.

(4) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu report the employment of certain funds derived from the grain supply system in providing means of relief for the distressed population in the region north of the Yangtze. The drought which prevailed throughout last summer has caused a lamentable amount of distress, for the relief of which, in some measure, public works in connection with the rivers and canals have been set on foot, and establishments have been opened for the distribution of boiled rations. The still impoverished state of the country forbids any reliance being placed upon local contributions of funds, and it is proposed to utilise for the purpose the reserve of 2 *shêng* of rice per picul which is provided, according to regulation, as a surplus over and above the grain contribution from the south-eastern districts of Kiangsu, in order to meet possible losses through shipwreck of the grain-junks. Under favour of the auspicious fortunes of the Sacred Ruler, the seas have of late been so tranquil that no losses have been incurred, and a large reserve stock of rice has been consequently accumulated. This, amounting to upwards of 13,000 piculs, it is now proposed to appropriate to purposes of relief.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue promptly consider and report.

Dec. 14th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Kwangsi, reporting the escape of a prisoner from the jail at Kwei-lin Fu. The official jail-warden is handed to the Board of Civil office for the infliction of the proper penalty; and the Prefect, responsible for the safety of the jail, is similarly exposed to censure, notwithstanding the plea that at the time of the escape he was occupied with the police arrangements of the Literary examinations. Stringent measures for the recapture of the escaped prisoner are enjoined.

(2) A decree dismissing from office or degrading a number of district officials denounced by the Governor of Kwangsi.

(3) The Vice-Presidents of the Granaries, Yen-hü and Pih Tao-yüan, memorialise reporting the delivery of the entire grain supply of the year to be now complete. The period of receipt of the sea borne rice

commenced on the 22nd April, and terminated on the 19th July, by which date upwards of 1,200,000 piculs of grain had been landed at T'ung Chow, examined, and transferred to the granaries. The shipments of grain by the inland waters were delayed owing to the low state of the Yellow River, and it was not until the 3rd October that the arrival of the six divisions of grain junks constituting the first half of the squadron of the year was reported at T'ung Chow. Their cargoes were at once landed, and delivery was also taken about the same time of the shipments of rice and peas from Manchuria. The second half of the grain squadron from the Grand Canal did not reach T'ung Chow until the latter part of October. The officials who have distinguished themselves during the year, in this service, are recommended for promotion or honours.

(4) The office of Gendarmerie memorialises presenting an appeal lodged by a native of the Lo-p'ing district in Kiangsi, who complains against a body of individuals headed by one Wang Yün-k'i, who, it is stated, had made an attack in February, 1875, upon the village inhabited by his family, in consequence of a dispute about some cemetery-land, and had murdered fourteen persons, beside wounding eight others and carrying off a large amount of property. The district Magistrate had neglected to do justice in the case, and made false reports concerning it to his superiors.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) The Governor of Fuhkien reports the successful proceedings of a force despatched to break up a gang of lawless offenders at T'ung-lo Chwang in the sub-prefecture of Tamsui in North Formosa.

Dec. 15th.—(1) A decree appointing Twan K'i 段起 to the post of Grain Intendant of the province of Kiangsi.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan reports the purchase in that province, for despatch to Peking, of 20,000 catties of insect wax (*peh lah*), under orders received with Imperial sanction from the Board of Revenue. He submits that the region in Sze-ch'wan in which this product is found is confined to a few districts in the prefecture of Kia-ting and the department of Mei Chow, and that the price is subject to great variations, in accordance with the quantity annually yielded, ranging, in past years, from 40 or 50 to 90 Taels per catty. The annual product is for the most part bought up by traders from Hupeh and Kwangtung, so that not more than 10 or 20 per cent. of the harvest remains in the province. In

the present season, prices have been moderate, and the 20,000 catties that have now been purchased have been obtained at a cost of Tls. 44.6.2. per picul, amounting to a total of Tls. 8,924. The consignment has been despatched in charge of two officials, who are to proceed overland from the provincial capital to Peking, by way of the provinces of Shensi and Shansi. For the cost of transport, in the absence of any fixed regulation applicable in this instance, being the first of its kind, an allowance is made of Tls. 25.6.5 per 140 catties, requiring a total outlay of Tls. 3,663.9.6. This is based upon the allowance established in the case of dyestuffs officially forwarded from Yünnan by the Ch'ang-têh land route. It is noted that the expenditure thus entailed is five times greater than the cost of shipment of wax from Hankow or Canton by water, for which purpose the allowance for the same weight is but Tls. 4.5.7. The payments have been made from the provincial exchequer.

(3) Li Hung-chang memorialises with reference to the appointment of an officer to succeed to the post of captain in the garrison of Peh-t'ang, vacant by the death of the late incumbent. The importance of Peh-t'ang in the system of maritime defence is remarked upon as most important, more particularly as fortifications are now in course of construction there and the use of foreign implements of warfare is being practised. It is proposed that an officer named Ma Hu-ch'ên be appointed to the vacancy, as a qualified person.—Referred for the consideration of the Board of War.

Dec. 16th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports the fall of between 2 and 3 inches of snow in Peking.

No documents of importance.

Dec. 17th.—(1) A decree sanctioning the application forwarded by the high authorities at Foochow on behalf of Chang Yoh-ling, Judicial Commissioner of Fuhkien, for leave to retire from the service on the ground of ill-health. Li Ming-ch'ih 李明墀 (at present Taotai at Hankow) is appointed his successor.

(2) A decree renewing the injunction heretofore laid upon Wên-ki, Taotai of the Kien-Shao Intendancy in Fuhkien, to return to his post, at the application of the high provincial authorities. He has been permitted to vacate his office on the ground of ill-health. So soon as his recovery shall have been effected, the Board of Civil Office and the Captain-General of

his Banner are to present him for audience, in order that he may hasten to Fuhkien without delay.

(3) Ts'ung-shih, acting Governor-General of Shingking, memorialises with reference to the garrison stationed at the port of Ta-ku Shan, on the south coast of the Liao-tung promontory, near the border of Corea. The post being a place of busy resort, it has been subject to frequent disturbance from brigands, and the Military Governor of the province arranged, with Imperial sanction, that a force of two hundred soldiers of the garrisons of the adjacent towns of Siu-yen and Hiung-yoh should be detailed for duty there, under the orders of the Military Commandant of Siu-yen. During the winter season the troops were withdrawn. The annual outlay for rations and transport amounted to 80,000 *tiao* (local currency.) In the opinion of the present memorialist, this system has not worked well, as it has diverted the attention of the Commandant from his proper duties, and has given rise to the levy of exactions upon the householders by the soldiery, on the plea that their allowance from the Government was insufficient. He has consequently determined upon substituting for the detachment of the troops from the cities above-named a body of soldiery, 200 strong, to be enlisted and trained on the spot. The cost of this force will be about Tls. 800 per mensem. It will be placed under the command of a special officer; and being permanently stationed at the port, will be more efficient for purposes of protection.

Dec. 18th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Tsêng Kwo-ts'üan, Governor of Shan-si, applying for leave to retire from his office on the ground of ill-health. He is granted a *congé* of two months, and need not vacate his post.

(2) The Superintendents of the Imperial Manufactories, at Nanking, Soochow, and Hangchow, jointly memorialise to represent the difficulties they labour under in consequence of the rise in the price of silk. They memorialised on the subject some time ago, requesting that, in conformity with the prescriptions of the Institutes of the present dynasty, the Governor of Chêhkiang might be called upon to obtain from the district authorities certificates setting forth the actual market price of silk, on their finding it impossible to make purchases at the rates set forth in the regulations. The Board of Revenue had objected, hereupon, that their quotation from the Institutes was a garbled extract, and remarked that they should not give ear to the interested

statements of the silk brokers, but should abide by the regulation, as regards prices, which was laid down in January last. An Imperial decree was received, ratifying this decision on the part of the Board. The memorialists now represent that the state of affairs at present prevailing is widely different from that of times gone by. The silk districts have not yet recovered from the ravages of the rebellion; the *lekin* taxes, which have to be paid before the silk leaves the hands of the seller, are very heavy, and the foreign demand is one of a most considerable nature. All these circumstances have arisen since the regulation prices were fixed in past years. Of late, a notable rise has taken place not only in the cost of the raw material itself, but also in that of wages and in every description of merchandise and necessaries. In the course of the present year, moreover, the foreign demand has grown to an unprecedented degree, and prices have risen above the rates of last year. These facts are known to all the world, and are not such as the memorialists would make bold to invent. They consequently join in repeating their former request.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue write to the high authorities of Kiangsu and Chêhkiang to ascertain the present prices of silk, and make farther report to Us.

(3) Ts'ung-shih, Governor-General of Shêngking (now deceased), memorialises stating that his illness is daily augmenting in severity, and urging that a high officer be sent to act in his stead for a time, while he devotes himself to the restoration of his health, in the interest of the service that is due at his hands. He passes in review the condition of the province and the operations he has instituted toward the introduction of better Government. A *congé* of two months is granted by rescript.

Dec. 19th.—(1) A decree appointing Chang Lien-kwei 張聯桂 to the post of Prefect of Kao-chow Fu in Kwangtung.

(2) Ts'ung-shih, acting Military Governor of Shêng-king (now deceased), memorialises stating that his state of health is daily growing worse, and entreating permission to resign his various offices.

(3) The Military Governor of the Amur province reports on the result of the harvests in the different districts under his jurisdiction, a great deal of distress having been caused in some parts by excess of rain and early frosts. The Hu-lan T'ing region, extending for about 300 miles in length, contains the richest soils in the province; and in this district a full

"six-tenths" crop has been secured. Elsewhere, the proportion has been as low as three or four tenths. Advances of grain, amounting to 18,100 piculs, to be repaid after next year's harvest, have been made from the government granaries to the more distressed districts.

(4) The Grand Chamberlain of the Imperial Equipage department memorialises urging that the provincial government of Chihli be commanded to collect and pay in the amount of Tls. 20,750, which is due as an annual payment to the department from ground rents in the province. Up to the year 1871, arrears had accumulated on this score to the amount of Tls. 490,000, notwithstanding that demands have been repeatedly pressed for payment. Since January, 1874, all disbursements for which the department is liable have been suspended, and there are no funds whatever in hand. Expenditure is, however, required, and should be met from the revenue accruing from these rents, for the imperial progresses to sacrifice and the State Temples and various other ceremonies of State. It is entreated that the amount above-named may be paid in before the end of the current year. Orders issued accordingly by rescript on the 7th instant. (See *Gazette* of Aug. 21st, 1875.)

(5) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, in reporting that the Intendant of the Salt Gabelle at Tientsin, Lin Shuh-hün, has been placed in mourning retirement, announces the appointment, to act in his stead, of the present Prefect of Tientsin, Ma Shêng-wu, an officer of integrity, experience, and capacity, who is most zealous in the discharge of his duty, and who has served for seven years in the office of Prefect in a most satisfactory manner. As his successor, choice is made of the expectant Prefect Hwei Kwei-sun, who is recommended as a diligent and capable official, tolerably well-versed in the points essential in conducting affairs of an international character, this being a matter of importance at a place of mixed resort such as Tientsin.

Dec. 20th.—(1) The Governor of Shansi, Pao Yüan-shên, memorialises upon the state of congestion existing in the provincial salt administration, (the Ho Tung 河東 division), and asks for a measure of relief. The difficulty experienced consists in the fact that upwards of 1,000 licenses, appertaining to the previous season's salt-delivery, still remain unissued. Under the amended regulations for the Gabelle which were introduced in 1853,

the number of licenses to be annually issued (by the system of drawing lots periodically on behalf of applicants) was fixed at 5,000, for the supply of the three provinces of Honan, Shansi, and Shensi. For some time previously, the revenue of the salt department had not exceeded Taels 500,000 per annum; but, owing to the prevalence of rebellion in the southern and western provinces, which broke up the salt delivery system of the seaboard and Sze-ch'wan, the demand for the produce of the Shensi and Honan salt wells grew to be such that for a certain period the revenue grew to upwards of Taels 1,000,000 per annum. This state of affairs has been gradually changing, however, since the suppression of the rebellion in 1864. The revenue has still continued to amount to about three quarters of a million Taels; but the difficulties in the way of disposing of the salt are increasing, and the outlay incumbent upon the purchasers of licenses presses very heavily upon them. The cost of transport has been notably increased this year by the demand for carriage entailed by the drought, and the necessity of transporting large supplies of grain to different parts. It is now prayed that, in conformity with a precedent in 1865, the quantity of salt undisposed of under licenses for the past delivery-season may be held in suspense to be added to the deliveries of the next period.—Referred for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorialises stating that since he took up his residence at Tientsin, early in the year, for the purpose of dealing with foreign affairs, a protracted drought has made itself felt, with attendant scarcity, and that for the relief of the distressed multitude that has flocked to the neighbourhood of Tientsin in search of the means of subsistence, he had instructed the local authorities to make periodical distributions of boiled rations, with a perceptible effect in relieving the necessities of the people. As the river is now about to become closed, he purposes leaving for the provincial capital on the 12th December.

Dec. 21st.—No documents of importance.

Dec. 22nd.—K'i-yüan, Civil Governor of the province of Fêng-t'ien, memorialises reporting the decease, on the 4th inst., of the Military Governor Ts'ung-shih. His exertions on behalf of the State are commemorated in a strain of high eulogium.—See *Gazettes* of 11th and 19th inst.

Dec. 23rd.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets on receipt of intelligence

of the decease of En-ling, a junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, whose services and distinctions are recounted, with the customary bestowal of posthumous favours and tokens of honour.

(2) A decree transferring Lin-shu 麟書 to the vacant post of junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, and Kwei-ts'üan 桂全 to the senior Vice-Presidency of the Mongolian Superintendency in his stead. Hwei-ts'üan 惠全 is appointed to succeed Kwei-ts'üan in the office of junior Vice-President of the above-named department.

(3) Liu Kw'ên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, reports his having taken over charge of the Superintendentship of Customs at Canton on the 17th October, on the temporary retirement of Tsün-k'i, the actual Superintendent, who had been required by Imperial decree, received on 12th October, to return to Peking to fulfil the period of 100 days' mourning on the death of his mother.

Dec. 24th.—No documents of importance.

Dec. 25th.—The Governor of Hunan reports the proceedings taken in the case of an individual named Tsêng Yüh-tsün, holding military rank as an expectant Colonel, who presented himself in May last at the Yamên of the Magistrate of the Liu-yang district to solicit pecuniary assistance. His language giving rise to some suspicion, he was searched, and an official despatch, in a defaced condition, was found upon him. On enquiry being made through the proper official channels, it was found that he had served as a "brave" during the rebellion in Kiangsi, where he won advancement to the titular rank he holds, together with the distinction of a peacock feather. Having become disabled by a wound in the left hand he was discharged, and in the latter part of last year he went to the provincial capital of Kiangsi to enlist in the Governor's brigade, but was not admitted. After this he had wandered about asking alms, and having found his way to the doorkeeper's office of the Provincial Finance Commissioner, he had seen lying there a despatch addressed to the prefect of Kan-chow with reference to the deprivation of a literary graduate of his rank. Remembering that it was customary among his own kinsfolk to issue an allowance of funds from the chest of the ancestral temple to any member of the clan who obtains a substantive official appointment, by way of encouragement and reward, it came into his head to filch this despatch, which he

carried home to his lodgings. He then cut off the official titles and stamps imprinted at the beginning and end of the document, and pasted them upon a strip of blank paper, which he intended to fill up with an appointment in his own name to an acting captaincy, to be made use of in obtaining money under false pretences at his native place. Being an illiterate person, however, he simply smeared the paper over, defacing it and making the document of no avail. This confession having been made by the delinquent, he is adjudged guilty of the two offences of stealing an official document and likewise of destroying a paper appertaining to the Government service, for each of which the penalty is one hundred blows, with that of branding added in respect of the first. He is sentenced to the single penalty of one hundred blows, privilege of commutation being withheld, and the branding remitted. He has been preliminarily stripped of his rank.

Dec. 26th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, who has voluntarily requested the infliction of a penalty upon himself in connection with the actual facts he has to report concerning the outrages committed by a body of irregular troops. He has to state that the soldiers under the orders of General Li Yeo-hêng did actually cut down and wound certain persons, including a man named Chao, beside carrying off the infant child of a person named P'ang; and, furthermore, that a large number of houses belonging to the To'ien-fêng fortified village were burnt, but whether by these soldiers or not is variously stated. Furthermore, that General Li Yeo-hêng and General Liu Pao-tsung, a divisional commander under his orders, had certain females accompanying them on their march, of whom it is alleged that these women were members of their respective families, but their antecedents have not yet been ascertained, and the truth of the statement cannot be depended upon. Such being the facts ascertained, it is in itself a glaring breach of military rule that officers in command of troops should be accompanied by the female members of their family; and if it should be the case that the officers now in question were consenting parties to the outrages committed by the soldiery, their offence is still more unpardonable. We have already commanded by rescript that Li Han-chang should investigate and deal with the case of the outbreak headed by Yüan T'ing-kiao in the Tung-hiang district; and as Li Han-chang has of late been

transferred to fill the post of Governor-General of the Hu-kwang provinces, we command that the case be actively enquired into and reported upon to Us by Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan. Let there be no approach to favouritism displayed. We command that Li Yeo-hêng and Liu Tao-tsung be jointly handed over to Ting Pao-chêng to be placed on trial, and severally, as the circumstances may require, deprived of their official rank and punished, to the better maintenance of the discipline of the army. Wên Kêh himself is to blame for his failure to bring to light the circumstances now reported, in his former memorial in reply to our commands. Let the Board concerned decide upon the penalty appropriate to his case. (See *Gazettes* of Oct. 30th and 31st).

(2) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Liu Kw'ên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, who has reported the suicide by hanging of a probationary district magistrate, in charge of the Tam-shui opium *lekin* office. The deceased left a paper behind him declaring that he had discovered malpractices on the part of the underlings of the office, and that he had been subjected to intimidation by them. Astringent enquiry is ordered to be instituted.

(3) The Military Governor of the Amur province reports the operations undertaken by the military force of Pa-yen Su-su against the brigands, both mounted and on foot, who have been disturbing the country on the South of the river Sungari. Large bodies of banditti, some scores in number, were reported toward the end of October to be committing depredations, and a force of 200 soldiers was despatched against them. Forty-five were killed and six taken prisoners on one day, after protracted fighting, with a loss to the troops of two killed and two wounded. It is represented that a tract of country 500 or 600 *li* in extent, of a mountainous and wooded character, in the neighbourhood of Pa-yen Su-su, Mi-urh, San-sing, and the gold diggings 金廠, constitutes a convenient resort for lawless offenders, who are able, so soon as the river freezes, to extend their depredations on all sides. Further precautions are to be instituted.—Rescript: It is noted. Let the Military Governor give orders to the commanders of the troops to pursue the traces of the banditti, and effect their capture or destruction. It is essential that the supply of provisions to them be cut off, and that they be not allowed to escape in other directions. For the rest, be it as is proposed.

(4) In a postscript memorial, the same authority refers to the enrolment of *Si-tan* (militia or reserve) troops, to the number of 4,000 men, which was ordered last year to be proceeded with, in the Amur province. The system is working well, and the following numbers have been organised for drill:—At Saghalin, 200 out of the original number of 1200 men; at Hu-lan, 300; and at Pa-yên Su-su, 300; who are kept constantly exercised in horse and foot manoeuvres, and musketry, sword, and spear drill. The cost of maintaining this force is estimated at 16,800 Peking *tiao* (about \$1680) per mensem; and funds for this purpose can be provided from the land tax assessed upon lands in the Pa-yen Su-su and Hu-lan region, which have lately been brought under regulation.

Dec. 27th.—The Governor of Honan reports the proceedings on an appeal case referred back from Peking for rehearing in the Province. The complainant, a Buddhist monk entitled Hung Po, had accused a certain person named King Yü-ch'êng, and others, of having set fire to his temple, and murdered a neophyte and made away with the body. On judicial proceedings being instituted in the usual manner, the facts elicited were as follows:—In the district of Kwang-shan there existed a Buddhist monastery called the Peh I-Yen, which was rebuilt by public subscription during the reign Shun Che (A.D. 1644-1661), and which was endowed with a glebe producing 18.5 piculs of grain per annum. In the second half of the 17th century an ancestor of Yü King-ch'êng's, named Yü Che-tso, had entered the priesthood in this temple, and had brought with him a sum of money toward the endowment. The complainant, Hung Po, joined the religious brotherhood at the same place in 1836, taking a priest named Hai-ch'êng as his preceptor, and receiving a certificate of ordination. The temple lands having been laid waste by the Nienfei about fifteen years ago, the priest Hai-ch'êng mortgaged the deeds for the property and spent the proceeds. On the death of Hai-ch'êng in 1871, Hung-po went on a pilgrimage to the southern provinces, leaving his grandson and neophyte, named Man I, in charge of the building. Man I having gone away on a begging tour, the temple was left unoccupied, and when Hung-Po returned in 1873 he found that the bamboos and trees around it had been cut down. He then called in Yü King-ch'êng and some of his relatives to advise with him about raising funds for repairs; but Yü King-ch'êng, finding the property to be all mortgaged,

accused Hung-Po of having made away with the proceeds; and, on discovering that part of the land had been derived from the gift of an ancestor of his own, came to high words with Hung-po. Complaints were lodged on either side with the authorities, and in the meanwhile, a gathering of the Yü faction having taken place at the temple, the grass was accidentally set on fire by ashes from a pipe, and the woodwork of the temple was burnt out. Hung Po sent his neophyte, Man I, to lodge a complaint with the district Magistrate, but the latter merely gave the lad a flogging on the palms of his hands for his desertion of the temple in the first instance. The Yü faction eventually redeemed the mortgaged lands, and turned Man I out of the building. The lad having disappeared, Hung Po accused Yü King-ch'êng and his friend of having murdered him and made away with his remains; and having got hold of a person, whose name is not known to him, sufficiently skilled in composition to draw up a plaint on his behalf, he brought his charge at Peking. On being conveyed back to the province and placed on trial, he has spontaneously withdrawn the charge of murder, as he has heard from another priest that the neophyte Man-I has returned to his home and re-entered secular life. The judgment delivered is to the effect that Hung-Po is liable to the penalty of eighty blows, with statutory reduction allowed, under the enactment against general wrong doing, for bringing his unfounded charge. The defendants, Yü King-ch'êng and his associates, are similarly held liable to an equal penalty for their action in seeking to contest the ownership of the land and temple; but being in possession of purchased certificates of rank, they are entitled to commute the personal for a pecuniary penalty. Hung-Po is to be reinstated in possession of the temple, and to be restored to the ownership of the glebe land as soon as he pays off the amount of mortgage.

Dec. 28th. (1).—A decree authorising certain exemptions from land tax in the coming year in various districts of the southern portion of the province of Chihli, in consequence of representations by the Governor-General Li Hung-chang of the deficient harvests during the past season.

(2) A memorial by Li Hung-chang reporting the proceedings taken upon the rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking, in which a native of the department of Ki Chow, named Shang K'ai, had brought a charge against certain individuals of having caused the death of his father. The accusation has been

disproved, and the complainant has been sentenced to the penalty of 80 blows according to law, for the offence of bringing a false charge.

(3) Li Hung-chang farther memorialises reporting the purchase of 520 reams (packages) of printing paper, by order of the Grand Council, to be supplied to the press of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, for an edition of the Poems of the Emperors of the reigning Dynasty. The requisite supply has been purchased at Tientsin, at a cost of Tls. 3,017.5.2.6.3.6.4, which has been defrayed from sums collected by the Tientsin Customs and subject to transmission to the Board of Revenue, viz., Tls. 1,369.1.1 on account of opium duty, and the remainder from duty on native merchandise. (N.B.—The work in question has been printed with moveable type at the European printing press appertaining to the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, from which other works of considerable size have lately been issued.)

Dec. 29th.—(1) A decree exempting from responsibility for the delay in the arrival of the grain delivery of the past season at T'ung Chow, Liu Ch'wan-k'i, the Grain Intendant of the provinces of Kiangsu and Anhwei, who had been incriminated on this account by the Censor Kung Sün. The high authorities of Kiangnan have memorialised representing that the delay was occasioned by want of water in the Grand Canal and not by neglect on the Intendant's part.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the proceedings taken in the case of a criminal named K'iao Sui-ch'êng, found guilty of the murder of three persons of one family. The accused was a labourer employed by a farmer named Sung Hwa-liu, who, with his two sons, had treated him harshly in consequence of his negligence in work, and had withheld his wages. In his anger at this treatment the accused had resolved upon taking the lives of his master and the two young men, his sons, and this design he carried into effect one night in July last, when the three victims were sleeping in the courtyard near their stable. He hacked them to death with a chopper, and was shortly afterwards apprehended. In conformity with the law in such cases made and provided, he has been sentenced to suffer death by the lingering (*ling-ch'e*) process, and this sentence has been carried into execution. In conformity with the provisions of the same statute, the offender's son is sentenced, in consequence of his parent's heinous crime, to be transported to one of the farthest frontiers of the Empire, at a

distance of not less than 4,000 *li* from the scene of the offence, and branded with two characters signifying the fact of the transportation; whilst the murderer's wife is likewise transported into a nearer place of banishment.

(3) Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Szech'wan, reports the transmission of funds to the military chest of the army of the Western frontier. The amount of 'Tael 190,000 had already heretofore been forwarded on account of the monthly remittances ordered for the troops serving under General Kin Shun, and another sum of Tael 90,000 had likewise been sent forward since Kin Shun's accession to the command-in-chief, vice King-lien (see *Gazette* of May 4th, 1875.) The provincial treasury has furthermore made good to the Board of Revenue the sum of Tael 120,000, which had been advanced by the Board to King-lien's military chest. The heavy demands upon the provincial Exchequer for a variety of public purposes have reduced it to great straits, but, in the present condition of affairs with the army of the West, which in its victorious advance is in urgent need of supplies, the duty of straining every nerve toward its support has been fully recognised; and a sum of Tls. 30,000 was despatched from the provincial capital on the 7th November for delivery at Kin Shun's head-quarters in the field.

Dec. 30th.—(1) The Governor-General and Governor at Canton report the suppression of an incipient seditious movement. Information had already been received of a plot to organise a rising in the district of Kwei-shan (on the East River), and the local authorities had been ordered to make search for the parties concerned in it, when an inhabitant of the Kwei-shan District, named Yen Shêng, came forward spontaneously, delivering up his son Yen Lao-sze, to lodge information. Six men were apprehended in consequence in the Kwei-shan district, and another of the confederates, upon whose person a form of oath was discovered, was captured in the Ts'ing-yüan district (on the North River.) On the criminals being placed on trial, the ringleader, Yü Têh-mêng, confessed that he was a native of Kiangsi, who had for some time past been gaining a living as a fortune-teller in Kwangtung. In the month of October, 1875, he had fallen in at different times with the remaining prisoners, and after they had conversed together about their needy condition, he had proposed to them under conditions of secrecy that they should raise the flag of revolt and betake

themselves to the commission of acts of rapine. They all agreed to this, and, under his direction, each man wrote out a form of oath, to be burnt as a witness to Heaven, and which contained a sentence to the effect that "When the year *yih-hai* (1875) comes the Great Work will be done." The confederates then separated, each to raise a band of followers, agreeing that they should fix a time in the 3rd moon of the following year to accomplish their rising. As Yü Têh-mêng was acquainted with Yen Lao-sze, a man of considerable substance, he appointed this man, with his own consent, to be "purveyor of arms and rice." The different confederates enrolled each a band varying in numbers from some scores to upwards of a hundred strong, and the intending revolt had assembled in an out-of-the-way spot of the Kwei-shan district to commence their outbreak, when they learnt that Yen Lao-sze had been given up to the authorities by his father. The band then dissolved, and the prisoners now arraigned were subsequently arrested. Yü Têh-mêng and four other of the chief offenders have been executed under the statute against treasonable conspiracies. A sixth man has died in prison. Four others are sentenced to a penalty one degree more lenient, viz., to undergo one hundred blows and banishment to a distance of 3,000 *li*, with the proviso that, pending the possibility of transporting them to Sungaria to be given as slaves to the soldiery, they be detained in prison. Yen Lao-sze is to be either given up to his father to be kept under control, or, should his father decline the charge, to be committed to detention in prison.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, newly appointed to the post of Governor of Shansi, memorialises entreating leave to resign his office on the ground of ill-health. He has already memorialised asking leave to proceed to Hankow, before going to his post, for the purpose of consulting a physician there, in reply to which application he was favoured with one month's *congé*. He has now to represent that his constitution is seriously weakened by illness, and by the hardships of the campaigns on which he served under his brother, the late Tsêng Kwoh-fan. On these occasions he always led the van, and, when besieging the fortifications of the rebels, he was at no time more than one or two *li* distant from their lines, nor, in the hour of battle, was he ever more than two or three bowshots distant from the enemy. Seven times he was wounded, and his clothing has been

drenched with pints of his own blood. The climate at K'ai-fêng Fu, in his late appointment as Director General of the Yellow River, has not agreed with him, and he has been so much reduced by diarrhœa that four or five months at the least would be requisite to restore him to a condition in which he could hope adequately to discharge the duties of his new post. For this reason he feels bound to ask leave to retire, until such time as he may again feel capable of shewing his loyalty by prostrating himself in the dust before the Palace gates and soliciting reëmployment.—In reply, a rescript has been issued, granting two months additional congé.

Dec. 31st.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Governor of Hunan, who has reported that an ex-Superintendent of Instruction, who had been dismissed the public service for some offence, had entered at the recent provincial examinations as a graduate of an inferior class, and had succeeded in passing for the *Kü-jên* degree. The fraud having been discovered, it is ordered that the decree be cancelled and the offender brought to trial and punished according to law.

(2) A Decree. The Colonel nominated to the Pao-k'ing command in Hunan, Fuh-k'ien by name, who was yesterday

presented in audience, being a person of very ordinary and inefficient stamp, We command that he do return to the place from whence he came and there do duty.

(3) The high authorities of Kwangtung memorialise reporting the trial and punishment of an official in charge of the *likin* station at Lupao (at the mouth of the North River), for negligence in failing to detect the malpractices of a clerk who had made use of a worn-out pair of scales and false weights in the receipt of payments, and who was also guilty of unauthorizedly disposing of a parcel of confiscated drugs and bestowing the proceeds in rewards upon the underlings employed at the tax-office. The receipts of the office between the 25th April and the 27th July, 1876, were Taels 39,160.9.1.8., including a sum in excess of the proper levy, amounting to Tls. 97.9.2. The offending clerk is sentenced to the penalty of 100 blows and banishment for three years, with one month in the cangue superadded. The official found guilty of negligence has been superseded.

(4—5) Memorials from Li Ho-nien, reporting his having assumed the seal of office, and from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, reporting his having handed over charge, of the Director Generalship of the Yellow River, on the 11th inst.

APPENDIX.

THE CHINESE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

The following particulars respecting the Imperial family of China, in connection with the order of succession to the throne, were compiled shortly before the death of the late Emperor (Tung-che), in order to indicate the probable candidates for the Throne, in case the illness from which he was then suffering should terminate fatally. But the paper has permanent value, and can be fittingly placed on record in a volume comprising the edicts which eventually regulated the succession. We call attention to the circumstances under which it was written, in order to explain the form of expression.

“As is well known, the reigning Sovereign is eighth in direct line of descent from his ancestor the Emperor She Tsu Chang Hwang Ti (Shun Che), who ascended the throne at the age of five in 1643, his reign being reckoned, however, according to the invariable Chinese usage, from the beginning of the following year, or February 8th, 1644. The legendary progenitor of the Manchu chieftains who advanced, by successive steps, to the assumption of the Imperial crown of China, bore, according to tradition, the surname Aisin Gioro, represented by the Chinese characters 愛新覺羅. The signification of the word *Aisin* is the same as that of the Chinese *Kin* 金, gold (or metal), and an identification is thus suggested with the dynastic title of the reputed ancestors of the Manchus, the Nü-chih Tartars, who reigned in northern China during the 12th and 13th centuries. The surname of their Imperial house was, however, Wan-yen 完顏. The word *Gioro* is said to be equivalent to the Chinese 氏 or family-stem. It is borne as a distinctive surname by every descendant of the founder of the present Imperial line, and it serves in particular as an appellation, prefixed to the personal name, for the more remote scions of the original stock. Actual descendants of Hien Tsu, the acknowledged founder of the family (1583-1615), are designated *Tsung-shih* 宗室, in conformity with the usage adopted by earlier Chinese dynasties. In order to make the observations which are to follow, with reference to the various branches of the Imperial lineage, more easily understood, it is necessary here to explain the further system of family nomenclature which has been adopted by the existing line. The foundations of this system were laid in the reign of the second Emperor of the dynasty, Shêng Tsu Jên, (K'ang Hi), who gave to each of his twenty-four sons a personal name consisting of two characters, the first of which was Yin 胤—subsequently exchanged in writing as a token of respect, for Yün 允—and the second compounded with the radical *she* 示 throughout, as 禔, 祺, and so on. His grandson, K'ien Lung, extended this practice into a system for perpetual application, ordaining that future generations deriving their descent from K'ang Hi should be successively designated by the following four characters, viz. :—

1. 永 Yung.
2. 綿 Mien.
3. 奕 Yih.
4. 載 Tsai.

Minute regulations were drawn up, and incorporated with the fundamental institutes of the dynasty, setting forth the manner in which both these characters and those employed for the second or individual half of each name, should be bestowed.

In the 49th year of his reign (A.D. 1784), on the birth of a great-great-grandson, to whom the character Tsai consequently appertained, K'ien Lung decreed the addition of the character Fêng 奉 as the next in succession; but this character was dismissed from use by order of the Emperor Tao Kwang. In the sixth year of the reign of this sovereign (1826), an addition to the number of characters appears to have been thought advisable (probably in order to avoid repetition as the list became exhausted), and ten characters were proposed for his Majesty's selection, out of which the following four were approved for future use, viz. :—

5. 溥 P'u. 6. 釐 Yü. 7. 恒 Hêng. 8. 啟 K'i.

The Emperor Hien Fêng, again, saw fit to increase the list by the addition of four more characters. The *Peking Gazette* of the 9th June, 1857, contains a copy of a decree directing the chief officers of Government to draw up a list of four characters, to be submitted, together with the six remaining on record since 1826, when they were put on one side after the four above enumerated were chosen, for approval by his Majesty. A short time afterwards, a further decree announced the fact that the following additional characters had been adopted from the list drawn up :—

9. 燾 Tao. 10. 闔 K'ai. 11. 增 Tsêng. 12. 祺 K'i.

So much for the first of the two characters forming the compound name. The complementary part of the system of nomenclature is well illustrated by Dr. S. W. Williams, in his "Middle Kingdom" (vol. I., p. 310), in the following terms: "The members [of the imperial family] most nearly allied in blood, as sons, nephews, etc., are still further distinguished by having the second syllables of their names written in compound Chinese characters, whose radicals are alike; thus Kia K'ing and his brothers wrote their names with Yung (the fourth syllable in the above list) and under the radical *gem*; Tau Kwang and his brothers and cousins with Mien, and under the radical *heart*. This peculiarity is easily represented in the Chinese characters, but a comparison can be made in English with the supposed names of a family of sons, as Louis *Edward*, Louis *Edwin*, Louis *Edwy*, Louis *Edgar*, and so on."

The personal names, thus compounded, will be traced in the following list of the Sovereigns who have successively occupied the throne, whose historical or posthumous titles (廟號) and the titles of whose reigns (年號) are likewise given :—

<i>Historical Title.</i>	<i>Title of Reign.</i>	<i>Period of Reign.</i>	<i>Personal Name.</i>
1.—She Tsu Chang. 世祖章	Shun Che. 順治	1644-1661.	Fuh Lin. 福臨
2.—Shêng Tsu Jên. 聖祖仁	K'ang Hi. 康熙	1666-1722.	Huan Yeh. 玄燁
3.—She Tsung Hien. 世宗憲	Yung Chêng. 雍正	1723-1735.	Yin Chên. 胤禔
4.—Kao Tsung Ch'un. 高宗純	K'ien Lung. 乾隆	1736-1795.	Hung Li. 弘曆
5.—Jên Tsung Jai. 仁宗睿	Kia K'ing. 嘉慶	1796-1820.	Yung Yen. 永琰
6.—Suan Tsung Ch'êng. 宣宗成	Tao Kwang. 道光	1821-1850.	Mien Ning. 綿寧
7.—Wên Tsung Hien. 文宗顯	Hien Fêng. 咸豐	1851-1861.	Yih Chu. 奕訢
8.—	Tung Che. 同治	1862-1875.	Tsai Ch'un. 載淳

The characters *Hwang Ti* 皇帝 (commonly rendered Emperor) follow, in practice, the three characters constituting the historical title, and a deceased sovereign, when not spoken of, colloquially though incorrectly, by the title of his reign, is designated by the *last* of the three characters in combination with the words *Hwang Ti*—e.g. Ch'êng Hwang Ti for the Emperor who reigned with the designation Tao Kwang.

Up to the period of the late Emperor (Hien Hwang Ti or Hien Fêng), no difficulty in regard to the succession presented itself in the Imperial line. Shun Che was the ninth son of his father; K'ang Hi the third of Shun Che; Yung Chêng the fourth of K'ang Hi; K'ien Lung the fourth of Yung Chêng; Kia K'ing the fifteenth of K'ien Lung; Tao Kwang the second of Kia K'ing; and Hien Fêng the fourth of the nine sons who were, in all, born to the Emperor Tao Kwang. The Emperor Hien Fêng, however, was without male issue for some years after he succeeded to the throne; and it was probably with a view to securing the dynastic succession that, about five years after his accession an adoptive heir was provided, in conformity with the national usage, to the eldest son of the late Emperor, a prince who had died at an early age many years before. On the 21st January, 1855, it was decreed that Tsai Chung 載中, a *tsung-shih* or member of the Imperial clan, be adopted (過繼) as son to the Prince above-mentioned, whose personal name was Yih Wei, and whose title was that of Prince of Yin Che ("undeveloped wisdom.") The adopted heir was a son of the *tsung-shih* Yih Ki, a great grandson of the Emperor K'ien Lung. By a subsequent decree, the second name of the youth thus adopted was changed from Chung to Che 治, bringing it into accord, as regards its radical (*water*) with that prescribed for the line which, by adoption, he had entered. As, however, the birth of a son (the present Emperor) to Hien Fêng, on the 27th April, 1856, apparently assured the succession in the direct line, any prospects that may have been connected with Tsai Che were for the time being at an end. The heir apparent received, by decree dated the 13th June, 1856, the name Tsai Ch'un 載淳; and by his father's decease on the 22nd August, 1861, he became successor to the throne. His marriage took place on the 15th October, 1872, and he assumed of the reins of government on the 23rd February, 1873.

In view of the fact that, up to the present time, no issue has been vouchsafed to the young sovereign, attention has naturally been turned toward the condition of the Imperial lineage; and the state of affairs in this respect can best be made clear by means of a genealogical table, commencing with the Emperor Kia K'ing.

The point of first importance to be noted in the table is the fact that, in default of issue to the reigning sovereign, the direct line of Imperial devolution terminates with his person. His father, Hien Fêng, was one of nine brothers, however, of whom four are still living; and to a mind accustomed to the European order of succession, it might seem natural that in the event of the nephew's decease without issue, the uncles would inherit in the order of their seniority. This is inadmissible according to Chinese ideas. The especial attribute of a son and heir being that of keeping up the ancestral sacrifices, the maintenance of which are essential to the well-being of the spirits of the departed (who repay the benefit by assuring temporal rewards in return for the assiduity of their descendants), it is held essential that the heir be of a generation posterior to that of the individual deceased. Hence, in the Imperial family, following the succession of the eight characters used in their nomenclature, a Mien should have a Yih as adoptive heir, whenever necessary; a Yih a Tsai, and so forth. This rule is exemplified in the adoption, already mentioned, of Tsai Che as heir to the deceased elder-born of the Emperor Tao Kwang, the Prince Yih Wei.

Adoption is, in fact, observed on an extensive scale among the members of the Imperial clan, whose family relationships are thus made not a little intricate. The

fifth son of Tao Kwang, next brother to the Emperor Hien Fêng, commonly known by his title of Prince of Tun, has been in this wise alienated from the closest to a collateral degree of kinship with the young Emperor. He was given in adoption many years ago (in 1845) to his deceased uncle the Prince of Tun K'io, third son of Kia K'ing; and one of his sons, again, the Prince (*beileh*) Tsai I, has been made into his nephew through adoption as grandson to another of the sons of K'ia K'ing (see Table). The alienation of Tsai I from the paternal stock is alleged to have been decreed as a punishment meted out to the Prince of Tun for a violation of self-restraint, prescribed by the ritual of mourning, at a period antecedent to the entry of the young prince into the world.

As the Table shews, the offspring of Tsai Che, who was himself by the decree of 1855 indicated as a possible heir to Hien Fêng, should be now the most direct claimants to the privilege of furnishing an heir by adoption to the reigning and childless Emperor. Four sons have been born to this Prince, of whom it is believed that only one, an infant, still survives. It seems possible, however, that in the deliberations of the Imperial Clan Court, the fact of Tsai Che being himself an adoptive son may militate, the case arising, against the eligibility of his children, and under such circumstances (provided also that the alienation of the Prince of Tun should bar the claim of his descendants) it appears probable that the offspring of the two uncles of his Majesty, next in order of seniority, would be the most available candidates. In any case, it is alleged by those who are versed in the principles of Chinese genealogy, the adoption of a heir not junior in the line of descent to the reigning Emperor could only be feasible by his being made heir to one of the earlier sovereigns (Hien Fêng or Tao Kwang). The Prince of Tun has several sons (eight in all have been born to him), of whom the eldest is married, but the probability of their alienation from the direct line of inheritance is, as has been remarked above, at least matter for consideration. If this be the case, the possible candidate next in order would be the elder son of the Prince of Kung, the *beileh* Tsai Ch'êng. This young prince is of about the same age with the Emperor, and was married in the course of last year. The "seventh Prince," younger brother of the Prince of Kung, has likewise a son, a mere child. The favour with which the "seventh Prince" has been looked upon by the Emperor might cause the choice to be directed here.

It may be useful to note, in conclusion, that the titles conferred on members of the present Imperial house are of twelve degrees. The sons of an Emperor, before receiving a special title by patent, are known simply by the designation *Ako* (in Manchu *a-gê*), with the numeral indicating their seniority by birth prefixed. The twelve degrees of rank are as follow:—

- 1.—和碩親王 *Ho-shéh Ts'in Wan*—Prince of the 1st order. 2.—
- 多羅郡王 *To-lo Kün Wang*—Prince of the 2nd order. 3.—多羅貝勒
- To-lo Beileh*—Prince of the 3rd order. 4.—固山貝子 *Ku-shan Bei-tsze*—
- Prince of the 4th order. 5 to 8.—公 *Kung* (with distinctive qualifications.)
- 9 to 12.—將軍. *Tsiang Kün* (with distinctive qualifications.)

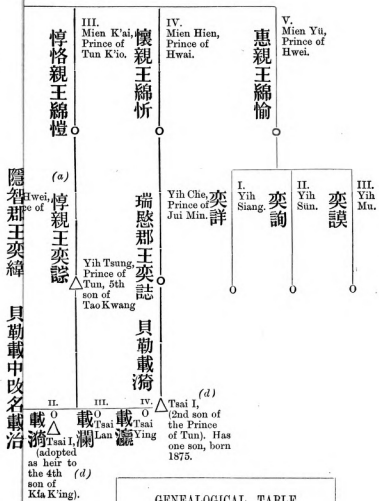
Imperial princes usually receive patents of the first or second order on reaching the age of manhood, and their sons are invested with the title *beiléh*. A *beiléh's* son becomes a *beitsze*, and rank is thus transmitted in a *diminuendo* scale, until the son of a titular *tsiang-kün* of the lowest degree would be no longer the inheritor of a title.

(*Note.*—An apparent departure from the symmetry of the rule of nomenclature may be observed in the case of the Prince Yih Wei, the eldest of the sons of Tao Kwang. His name of Wei is written 緯 with the radical 糸 (*Silk*), whereas Hien Fêng and his brothers are distinguished by the radical 言 (*word*). The discrepancy arose, it is explained, after Yih Wei's decease, when the Emperor Tao Kwang ordained

the abandonment of the radical 糸 *silk* and chose 言 *word* as its substitute. It is unnecessary here to dilate upon the changes which, according to Chinese ideas of reverential duty, have been made in the form of the characters employed successively for the personal name of each Emperor. An instance may, however, be given in that of the present sovereign, since whose accession the character Ch'un 淳 has been altered into the form 溥.

The titles given to the Princes of Imperial descent are largely compounded of Manchu words. Thus *ho shéh* (originally *banner*) signifies one of the four divisions of the army or State; and *beiléh* has the meaning of *commander* or *leader*. The military origin of the dynasty is commemorated in these appellations.

N.B.—The above was written before the death of his late Majesty, the Emperor T'ung Che, who died on the night of 12th Jan., 1875. On the 13th Jan., a series of Imperial decrees announced the adoption of Tsai T'ien 載湉, the young child above referred to as the son of the "seventh Prince" (Prince of Ch'un), as heir to the Emperor Hien Fêng and successor to his deceased cousin, the Emperor T'ung Che. He consequently ascended the throne as ninth sovereign of the dynasty, being at the time between three and four years old. The two Empresses Dowager resumed their former Regency. Kwang Sù 光緒 was the title proclaimed, three days later, as that of the new reign. On the 26th January, the title by canonization of the late Emperor was announced as Muh Tsung I Hwang-ti 穆宗 毅皇帝.



GENEALOGICAL TABLE
OF THE
CHINESE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

I.
P't

branches in the above Table is indicated by a triangle substituted for a circle.
ed by the addition of the triangle below the circle.

OPINION OF THE PRESS.

We have received a copy of the Translation of the *Peking Gazette* for 1875, reprinted from the *North-China Herald*, and published at the office of that paper, Shanghai. This work, which has now been published for several years, is always useful for reference, being an excellent compendium of Chinese official proceedings, but the present volume is especially valuable, because it contains so much matter of unusual interest. The whole series of edicts in connection with the death of the Emperor Tung-chi and his Imperial Consort, together with the appointment of the Empresses Dowager as Regents during the minority of the present Emperor appeared during the year, and will well repay a second perusal, as throwing light on the manners of the Chinese Court. During the past year, too, the presence of foreigners in China has been, for the first time, noticed officially in the *Gazette*. One of the conditions exacted by Sir Thomas Wade, during the late negotiations on the Yunnan Outrage was that the leading features of those negotiations should be published, and the real position of foreigners in the country properly recognised. The appointment of Li Han-chang as High Commissioner to investigate the crime; his first report after arriving at Yunnan-fu; with certain edicts on the treaty privileges of foreigners, and placing on a better footing the relations of Foreign Ministers with the heads of the Chief Departments of State at Peking are to be found in the pages of this handy little book. Its value is still further enhanced this year by an appendix in which is given a genealogical table of the Chinese Imperial family, together with an interesting commentary upon it, explanatory of the rather intricate relationships and the rules of adoption and succession observed. These volumes are records of important events—the one for the present year more particularly so—and should find a place on the book shelves of every one who takes an interest in Chinese questions. The volume for 1875 is uniform with the rest of the series, is legibly printed on good paper, and neatly got up.—*Daily Press*.

We have received for notice the Translation of the *Peking Gazette* for the year 1875. The book, as our readers need scarcely to be informed, is a continuation of similar publications for previous years, and is a reprint of the translations of the *Gazette* that appear from time to time in the *North-China Daily News*. It affords a large amount of entertaining reading matter for those interested in Chinese affairs, and is exceedingly valuable as a book of reference on the history of the Middle Kingdom. As is pointed out in the preface, the *Peking Gazette*, during the last year, gave publicity to many documents of unusual interest and importance. The death and obsequies of the Emperor, the election of a successor, the self-appointment of the Empresses Dowager as Regents during the minority of the child, the Yunnan affair, and other events of serious political import to the country, are described with faint and curious minuteness in the volume under notice. At the end of the book is given a genealogical table of the Imperial Family.—*China Mail*.

We acknowledge with thanks a copy of the most interesting and valuable publication we have received for some time—the *Peking Gazette* translations for 1875, reprinted from the *North-China Daily News*. It forms an excellent compendium of Chinese official proceedings, and the index has been so carefully compiled that a mere glance is all that is necessary for the reader to find anything he may want. The present volume is particularly interesting as giving us the various Edicts published in connection with the decease of the late Emperor, all of which are quaint in the extreme; besides which we have Memorials and Decrees on Judicial and Revenue Administration: Civil and Military affairs—including public worship and instruction, female piety, superstition, meteorology, astronomy, astrology, geomancy, &c.: External Relations, including various state papers on the Yunnan outrage and the troubles in the North: Provincial and Colonial matters: and an Appendix, giving very full particulars with respect to the Chinese Imperial family,

a subject with which people ought to be better acquainted than they are. It strikes us, however, that, as this very interesting little essay appears to have been written some time during the reign of Tung-chih—about a year and a half ago, in fact—some modifications might have been introduced with advantage. For instance, it reads rather comically that “up to the present time” (the title-page is dated 1876) “no issue has been vouchsafed to the “young sovereign.” At first sight it appears as though the editor were lamenting the fact that the present baby-Emperor had no children, and it is not until we arrive at the foot-note two pages further on that we are informed, though we have been led previously to suspect, that the article is of somewhat ancient date. This should, we think, certainly have been changed. Otherwise we have nothing but praise to bestow. The volume is very tastefully bound, like its predecessor, in Imperial yellow, and does much credit to the care of its compiler.—*Courier*.

A good many readers of the *North-China Daily News* probably pass over the translations of the *Peking Gazette*, as likely to be dry and not to repay the trouble of perusal. And many of the edicts and memorials which compose each number have doubtless little interest except for students of Chinese polity. Some, however, are really of political importance, and more have a quaint interest as illustrating the working of the Chinese system and the tone of thought of the people. Scarcely a day's *Gazette* fails to indicate some curious custom, and very often the memorials contain as much incident as a sensation of novel.

A curious light would be thrown on the history of China, and even of eastern Asia, for the last thousand years, if it were possible to collect and sketch the principal edicts which have found place in the “Court Announcements,” as the Chinese call the little brochure, during that period. It is, we believe, not known to what Emperor, or even to what dynasty, belongs the credit of inaugurating the publication, in this form, of edicts and memorials likely to have public interest; but it is known that the *Gazette* was published in the Tang dynasty, which began to reign in the first decade of the seventh century—and it may have been in existence centuries earlier.

The volume now before us would come, in after years, to hold a marked position in the series. For the first time, during the year just ended, the *Gazette* has deigned to notice officially the presence of foreigners in the country. As pointed out in the preface, one of the conditions exacted by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister during the course of the negotiations which ensued on the murder of Mr. Margary in Yünnan, was that the leading features of those negotiations should be published, and that the real position of foreigners in the country should be recognised more fittingly than had been hitherto done. And the appointment of Li Hang-chang as a Commissioner to investigate the crime; his first report after his arrival at Yünnan-foo, and certain edicts emphasising the treaty privileges of foreigners, and placing on a better footing the relations of foreign Ministers with the Great Departments of State at Peking, will be found in its pages. The whole series of edicts connected with the death of the Emperor Tung-che and his Consort, and the appointment of the Empresses Dowager as regent, appeared during the year, and well deserve both perusal and record as examples of Court custom and etiquette, and models of the best style of Chinese eloquence. In connexion with this subject, too, a genealogical table of the Imperial family, which was published last spring in the *North-China Herald*, has been reprinted as an appendix, together with an exhaustive commentary upon it, explaining the various relationships and the rules of adoption and succession which are observed by the Imperial clan. Altogether, the volume is one of exceptional interest, and deserves a place in the library of every one who takes an interest in Chinese politics and literature.—*North-China Daily News*.

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